

REPORT OF THE
SELECT COMMITTEE
OF
CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS,
POOR HOUSES, &c.

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REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

New York State Legislature, 1857.
Select Committee on State Institutions.
APPOINTED TO VISIT

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTED BY THE STATE

AND ALL

CITY AND COUNTY POOR AND WORK-HOUSES AND JAILS,

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK.

Transmitted to the Legislature, January 9, 1857.

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IN SENATE, JAN. 9, 1857.

REPORT

Of Select Committee appointed to visit Charitable Institutions supported by the State, and all city and county poor and work houses and jails.

Mr. Spencer from the select committee appointed by the Senate, under a resolution passed February 7, 1856, "to visit, after the adjournment of the Legislature, all charitable institutions supported or assisted by the State, and all city and county poor and work houses and jails," and "to examine into the condition of the said establishments, their receipts and expenditures, their methods of instruction, and the government, treatment, and management of the inmates, the conduct of the trustees, directors, and other officers of the same, and all other matters whatever pertaining to their usefulness and good government,"

REPORTS:

Since the adjournment of the Legislature, they have, for five months, with some intermissions, been engaged in the investigations required by the resolution of the Senate. They have diligently examined into the existing condition of the poor houses, work houses, hospitals, jails, orphan and lunatic asylums, and other charitable and reformatory institutions, supported or assisted by the State; and have committed to writing the evidence taken in the course of their investigations, an abstract of which is appended to this report.

Much of the evidence is necessarily of such a character, that a publication of it, in detail, for general perusal, would not be

desirable. The abstract prepared by the committee, as an appendix to this report, is sufficient for the purpose of illustrating and sustaining the criticisms, remarks, and arguments of the committee, and of communicating such statistics and details, not otherwise contained in the report, as seem to be requisite for public information.

I. POOR HOUSES, ALMS HOUSES, AND KINDRED CHARITIES.

Exclusive of the alms houses and poor houses in New-York and Kings counties, (which are particularly referred to in the appendix,) there are fifty-five poor-houses in the State ; the average number of inmates for the year, according to the testimony taken by the committee, being 6,420. The actual number of inmates at the time when the committee was engaged in its examinations, was 4,936, of which 2,670 were foreign born, and 1,307 were children. During the past year, the number of deaths in these fifty-five poor houses was 770. Such a great mortality as this number indicates, should arrest the public attention.

The number of lunatics found confined in the poor houses (excepting those in New-York and Kings counties) was 837, (329 males and 508 females) of which number 301 were received during the last year. Of the whole number, 130 were reported as being in *cells* and *chains*. During the year, 59 improved, and 26 recovered. All were *paupers* except 27. Why these twenty-seven should be confined in a *poor house* can only be accounted for by the inadequate provision now made by the State for accommodating the poor insane. This circumstance impressed the committee with the urgent necessity of providing additional establishments similar to the State Asylum at Utica. At least two such are required for present emergencies. A bill was reported to the Legislature at its last session, by a select committee of the Senate, providing for this necessity, which in its principal features, at least, and probably in its details, deserves the favorable consideration of the Senate, and, in the judgment of the committee, ought to become a law. Sufficient reasons for such an opinion may be found in the report of the select committee who introduced the bill, and they are fortified by the facts attested to by the various witnesses whose testimony is appended to this report.

There was found in these poor houses 273 idiots, 25 deaf mutes, and 71 blind persons. Of those numbered as idiots, many

are simply demented, and are suitable subjects for lunatic asylums. The average weekly support of the inmates is eighty three cents.

The poor houses throughout the State may be generally described as badly constructed, ill-arranged, ill-warmed, and ill-ventilated. The rooms are crowded with inmates; and the air, particularly in the sleeping apartments, is very noxious, and to casual visitors, almost insufferable. In some cases, as many as forty-five inmates occupy a single dormitory, with low ceilings, and sleeping boxes arranged in three tiers one above another. Good health is incompatible with such arrangements. They make it an impossibility. (Note A.)

The want of suitable hospital accommodations is severely felt in most of the poor houses. The sick, considering their physical condition, are even worse cared for than the healthy. The arrangements for medical attendance are quite inadequate to secure that which is suitable; the physician is poorly paid, and consequently gives only such general attention as his remuneration seems to require. In some cases, the inmates sicken and die without any medical attendance whatever. In one county alms-house, averaging 137 inmates, there were 36 deaths during the past year, and yet none of them from epidemic or contagious disease. Such a proportion of mortality indicates most inexcusable negligence.

A proper classification of the inmates is almost wholly neglected. It is either impossible, or when possible, it is disregarded. (Note B.) Many of the births occurring during the year are doubtless, the offspring of illicit connections. During the last year, the whole number of births was 292. The indiscriminate association of the sexes generally allowed strongly favors this assumption. By day, their intercourse is common and unrestricted; and there is often no sufficient safe-guard against a promiscuous intercourse by night. In one case, the only pretence of a separation of the sexes consisted in the circumstance of separate stairs being provided at each end of a common dormitory; and a police regulation, requiring one sex to reach it by one flight, and the other sex by another, appeared to be deemed a sufficient preventive of all subsequent intercourse.

In two counties, the committee found that the poor houses were supplied by contract, the contractor being allowed to profit by all the labor which he could extort from the paupers. In *both*

counties, the contractor was a *superintendent of the poor*; and in one, he was *also keeper of the poor house*. In one, the keeper received his compensation from the contractor; and in this case, the food supplied was not only insufficient in quantity, but consisted partly of tainted meat and fish. The inmates were consequently almost starved. They were also deprived of a sufficiency of fuel and bedding, and suffered severely from cold. So gross and inhuman was the conduct of the contractor for this poor house, that two female inmates (lunatics,) were frozen in their cells (or rather sheds,) during the last winter, and are now cripples for life.

The treatment of lunatics and idiots in these houses is frequently abusive. The cells and sheds where they are confined are wretched abodes, often wholly unprovided with bedding. In most cases, female lunatics had none but male attendants. Instances were testified to of the *whipping* of male and female idiots and lunatics, and of confining the latter in loathsome cells, and binding them with chains. In one county, where eleven lunatics were confined, six were in chains, some of whom were females. In several of these cases, the patients were not violent; but it may be proper to say that the severity and inhumanity of their treatment were probably owing to the apprehensions and ignorance of the keepers, rather than to any intentional harshness or any unkindness of disposition.

In some poor houses, the committee found lunatics, both male and female, in cells, in a state of nudity. The cells were intolerably offensive, littered with the long accumulated filth of the occupants, and with straw reduced to chaff by long use as bedding, portions of which, mingled with the filth, adhered to the persons of the inmates and formed the only covering they had.

A great evil of the poor houses is idleness. Its effects are most visible in the winter season, when the houses are crowded, when there is little out door work to be done, and when the inmates are in the most vigorous state to do full work. In all the large counties, at least, work houses should be established, either in connection with the poor houses or as distinct establishments; and suitable legal power should be given to the proper officers to consign able bodied paupers to the work house instead of the poor house proper. Such work houses would tend to diminish pauperism; at all events, to diminish the burthen of it. Under suitable regulations, and with little public aid, the committee are

satisfied that work houses, if generally established, would become most useful and economical auxiliaries in the support of paupers, and in restoring them to positions of independence and respectability. (Note C.)

A still more efficient and economical auxiliary in supporting the poor, and in the prevention of absolute pauperism, consists, in the opinion of the committee, in the proper and systematic distribution of *out door* relief. Worthy indigent persons should, if possible, be kept from the degradation of the poor house, by reasonable supplies of provisions, bedding, and other absolute necessities, at their own homes. Half the sum requisite for their maintenance in the poor house would often save them from destitution, and enable them to work in their households and their vicinity, sufficiently to earn the remainder of their support during the inclement season when indigence suffers the most, and when it is most likely to be forced into the common receptacles of pauperism, whence it rarely emerges without a loss of self-respect and a sense of degradation. The committee are confirmed in their opinion by the success of the system of *out door* relief practised in the city of New York; and they see no good reason why a similar system might not be adopted throughout the State, with great benefit to the several counties, as well as to those indigent persons who require only occasional assistance. The present provisions of law seem to be inadequate and ill-suited to the purpose.

In many instances the committee learned that the poor houses were not visited by the supervisors for more than a year. They cannot but regard this as a gross neglect of public duty, and therefore submit it to public criticism, and to such legislative interference as may effect a more efficient supervision.

It will be seen that in the counties of Queens and Suffolk, no county poor houses are established. By the appendix it will appear that a poor house for two towns, in Queens county, were visited by the committee, but here they saw nothing creditable to those having charge of the establishment, and it was understood, in some of the others towns of that county, the man who would *bid* the lowest price, secured to himself the profit of keeping the poor of the town, and that they were accordingly delivered to his *care*. The committee visited one town poor house at River Head, in the county of Suffolk, and though there were only three or four inmates seen, they were evidently well provided for and

kindly treated. It was represented that there was similar provision made in all the other towns in the county.

The opinion is prevalent that the poor houses are asylums for the worthless and vicious only. Among the inmates, however, the committee found persons of great worth and respectable character, reduced to extreme poverty, not by any vice or fault of their own, but by some inevitable loss of property, or of friends and relatives who, if living, would have supported them in their age and infirmities. In one county, they met with a soldier who had served under Washington in the wars of the revolution, still of sound mind, and in good health; but who was until lately ignorant that he was entitled to a pension that would suffice to make the residue of his life comfortable outside of a poor house. He is now about to obtain it, as he doubtless deserves it. Poor houses, if properly conducted, might be what they were originally designed to be, comfortable asylums for worthy indigence. To suffer them to become unsuitable refuges for the virtuous poor, and mainly places of confinement for the degraded, is to pervert their main purpose; and the present management of them is such that decent poverty is virtually excluded until the last extremity of pauperism is reached, when the necessity of supporting mere existence compels it reluctantly to seek the scanty comforts of a poor house rather than to suffer the horrors of starvation outside.

The most important point in the whole subject confided to the committee, is that which concerns the care and education of the children of paupers. There are at least thirteen hundred of these now inmates of the various poor houses, exclusive of those in New-York and Kings county; enough, in these nurseries, if not properly cared for, to fill some day all the houses of refuge and prisons in the State. As receptacles for adult paupers, the committee do not hesitate to record their deliberate opinion that the great mass of the poor houses which they have inspected, are most disgraceful memorials of the public charity. Common domestic animals are usually more humanely provided for than the paupers in some of these institutions; where the misfortune of poverty is visited with greater deprivations of comfortable food, lodging, clothing, warmth and ventilation than constitute the usual penalty of crime. The evidence taken by the committee exhibits such a record of filth, nakedness, licentiousness, general bad morals, and disregard of religion and the most common religious observances, as well as of gross neglect of the most ordinary comforts and decencies of life, as if published in detail would

disgrace the State and shock humanity. The committee hesitate to record in the pages of their report the particular instances which would amply justify their general condemnation of these misnamed charitable provisions for the *adult* poor. But with respect to *children*, the case is far worse; and the committee are forced to say that it is a great public reproach that they should ever be suffered to enter or remain in the poor houses as they are now mismanaged. They are for the young, notwithstanding the legal provisions for their education, the worst possible nurseries; contributing an annual accession to our population of three hundred infants, whose present destiny is to pass their most impressive years in the midst of such vicious associations as will stamp them for a life of future infamy and crime. From such associations they should be promptly severed; and provision should be made for them either in asylums devoted to their special use, or in such orphan asylums as would consent to take charge of them for a fair compensation to be provided by the State, or by the several towns and counties properly chargeable with the expense.

Although pauperism is not in itself a crime, yet that kind of poverty which ends in a poor house, unless it is the result of disease, infirmity, or age, producing a positive inability to earn a livelihood, is not unusually the result of such self-indulgence, unthrift, excess, or idleness, as is next of kin to criminality. With such pauperism as that it is certain that the young should not be associated and trained to maturity; for it is an association with discomfort, evil manners, profanity, and licentiousness. The education which the statutes provide for them is not suited to their particular case. In-door instruction is often confided to unfit and vicious teachers (Note D.); and the attendance of pauper children at schools in the vicinity of the almshouse is accompanied by a sort of disgrace attaching to their position which has a most unfavorable influence. Orphanage is not subject to the like stigma; and therefore to go from an orphan asylum to a public school does not expose the orphan to the same taunts and inconsiderateness that follow the pauper child who is the inmate of a poor house; which is generally reputed, in its vicinity, as a habitation for vice and degradation, so low has it fallen from its original purpose.

. If adequate provision cannot be made in the various existing orphan asylums, and such as may be hereafter founded, for the support and education of these unfortunate children of poverty,

as a consideration for increased benefactions from the State or from the counties, then the committee most earnestly recommend the establishment of special institutions for the purpose of maintaining and educating them by themselves, apart from the contaminations which now surround and vitiate them. It would, in the end, prove a most useful and economical public charity, and one which the present state of the almshouses seems to demand very urgently, if the welfare of succeeding generations is worthy of the care of the present one. (Note E.)

Attempts have been made, in some of the counties, to establish separate asylums for *insane* paupers. As a saving of expense to the county in the maintenance of these appears to be a principal object, it is obvious to the committee, considering all the circumstances requisite to be observed, that such efforts must terminate either in sacrificing the lunatic or the purpose of economy sought to be achieved. A lunatic asylum for every county, properly constructed, on suitable grounds, and with due regard to warmth, ventilation, bathing, and all the peculiar necessities of the insane, including suitable medical and other attendance, must necessarily involve not only an original outlay, but a constant annual expenditure, far exceeding, in comparative amount, that which would be incurred for the support and care of the same number of inmates in four or five larger institutions properly distributed throughout the State. So many different asylums could not employ, without extravagance, the necessary medical aid and experience; and they could not be so constructed and arranged, without great expense, as to allow of a proper and essential classification of the patients whether for health, improvement, or cure. They would doubtless serve to ameliorate somewhat the condition of those who are now unfortunately confined to the ordinary almshouses; but, at considerable additional expense to the counties, they would still leave them in a worse condition than if they were the inmates of an asylum assisted and managed by the State.

It would not be difficult to show that it must cost a county more to support an independent asylum for its insane poor; with the same care of the patient, than to send them to the State Asylums and support them there. It would be still easier to show that if the difference of cost were the reverse of that, the well-being of the insane will be sacrificed in an equal or greater proportion. The parsimony which would stint them in the enjoy-

ments and comforts that might conduce to their restoration, if curable, and would certainly solace their nights and days if incurable, is very questionable in its humane, as well as its economical, aspects. In the opinion of the committee, therefore, it is not desirable to encourage the foundation of such a multiplicity of lesser asylums as would place each county on an independent footing with respect to insane paupers. It is bad economy and worse humanity; and the tendency of it must be to send to the State Asylums as "indigents" simply, *and at the charge of the counties*, many who are legally "paupers," and who, under that designation, would, but for the interference of humane friends and considerate judges, be necessarily consigned to such unfit abodes as the county asylums, to be at the mercy of some selfish contractor, who might farm out a contract made on starvation estimates to some subordinate who must reduce the starvation limit still lower, if he would not starve himself.

The details and statistics respecting the alms houses and kindred institutions in New-York and Kings county, and respecting poor houses, work houses and penitentiaries in other parts of the State, are fully given in the appendix to this report.

Before passing from the subject of poor houses, the committee may be allowed to say that it is much to be regretted that our citizens generally manifest so little interest in the condition even of those in their immediate neighborhood. Individuals who take great interest in human suffering whenever it is brought to their notice, never visit them, and are entirely uninformed, that in a county house almost at their own doors, may be found the lunatic suffering for years in a dark and suffocating cell, in summer, and almost freezing in the winter,—where a score of children are poorly fed, poorly clothed, and quite untaught,—where the poor idiot is half starved and beaten with rods because he is too dull to do his master's bidding,—where the aged mother is lying in perhaps her last sickness, unattended by a physician, and with no one to minister to her wants,—where the lunatic, and that lunatic too, a *woman*, is made to feel the lash in the hands of a brutal under-keeper—yet these are all to be found—*they all exist in our State*. And the committee are quite convinced that to this apparent indifference on the part of the citizens, may be attributed in a great degree, the miserable state to which these houses have fallen; and they would urge upon the benevolent in

all parts of the State to look into their condition, and thus assist to make them comfortable abodes for the indigent and the unfortunate.

II. ORPHAN ASYLUMS.

It is agreeable to turn from the consideration of the poor houses and their mismanagement, to the examination of the Orphan Asylums to which the benefactions of the State are contributed. The committee visited them all. Whether it be that the principal charge of these is confided to females, or whatever be the cause, it is certain that with less comparative expenditure of the public moneys an incomparably greater amount of comfort, cleanliness, kind treatment, health, and good education is secured to the inmates, than happens to be the lot of the paupers in our poor houses.

To a cordial expression of praise respecting the general management and good condition of the Orphan Asylums, the committee most cheerfully add a recommendation of them to the liberal support of the State government; and especially if additional benefactions can be made the means of relieving the poor houses of their young inmates, by providing for their support and education in the Orphan Asylums as heretofore suggested by the committee. Children, whose parents are paupers in the legal sense, and actual residents in pauper asylums, are generally to all practical intents as much orphans as those who are deprived by death of their natural protectors; and their actual condition is much more pitiable. An association with their destitute parents, and their necessary poor house companions, is not only a deprivation of the attention and comforts which they ought to enjoy during their tender years, but it is a fatal exposure to examples of most evil tendency. Their chance to become virtuous and exemplary citizens is the most desperate of all human chances; and upon a future generation is inflicted the necessary consequence of supporting them as criminals in our jails and prisons.

The Orphan Asylums are twenty-six in number and contain 2816 children, of whom 2224 are of foreign parentage; to whose support the State appropriates the annual sum of thirty-five thousand dollars.

In connection with this fact the committee desire to state that the cost to the public of supporting 678 prisoners confined in the *jails*, is eighty thousand seven hundred and thirty dollars. The inference is, that to educate one orphan to usefulness, the public treasury expends less than one-tenth as much as it does to maintain one useless convict in jail.

At suitable ages, orphan children are placed in respectable families, (by which they are frequently adopted as children,) or they are indentured, the boys to farmers and mechanics, the girls to learn housekeeping and needle work. The care of the managers still follows them beyond the precincts of the asylum, until they become of age, and if they are unsatisfactorily provided for, or are ill-treated, new situations are obtained for them. The committee in all cases made strict inquiry as to the standing and reputation of the inmates who had left the asylums, and it was ascertained that, with few exceptions, they became good and useful citizens.

III. LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

For statistical and other details respecting the lunatic asylums endowed or assisted by the State, the committee refer to the appendix to this report. They are as well and efficiently managed as is possible with the means and conveniencies at the command of the superintendents and managers, and in conformity to the existing provisions of law. A particular examination of these, has forced the committee to a conclusion which seems to have been generally adopted by the superintendents and managers of such asylums, both in this country and abroad; that the common practice of transferring insane *convicts*, or convicts assumed to be so, from the prisons to the lunatic asylums is impolitic, injurious and unjust. Lunacy has no necessary association with crime; nor should lunatics be enforced to an association with criminals. It is an association every way detrimental to the lunatic, and no way beneficial to the criminal. While lunacy may be wisely deemed a sufficient cause for absolving a convict from punishment, it is not a sufficient one for letting him loose on the community at large, and much less upon that afflicted portion of it, for whose protection and care asylums are founded and maintained. A decent respect for their infirmity demands that they should not be legally associated with those outcasts of society, who, in the possession of their faculties, have degraded themselves by crime.

The original act establishing the State Lunatic Asylum made no provision for *insane convicts*; and experience shows that it was wisely framed in that particular. Of fifty convicts discharged from incarceration for crime, and transferred to the State lunatic asylum, fourteen eloped soon after the transfer. Only one or two of these were really insane. The others feigned insanity. They were mostly burglars or robbers, who preferred the chances of escape from an ill-protected asylum, to the certainty of detention in a well guarded prison; and who therefore simulated insanity as the shortest way to impunity and freedom.

The existing statutes seem to favor such modes of escaping the penalties of crime, and defeating criminal justice. While the law requires that a plea of insanity interposed before conviction shall be tried by a jury upon competent evidence; yet, after a conviction, it allows a question of insanity to be decided by the sole judgment of the medical and other officers of a prison (not usually experts in insanity,) who are legally empowered to transfer a convict from a prison, where labor and severity of treatment are his due punishment, to an asylum, where he is not only free from both, but is tempted by a facility of escape of which he does not hesitate to take speedy advantage. A prison is a place of strict confinement and enforced labor, by way of *punishment*; an asylum is simply a place of confinement, by way of isolation, and for the benevolent purpose of protection and *cure*. To make the two places common, is to confound two different intents of the law and of humanity, and to defeat both.

It seems to the committee, therefore, that there is an imperative necessity to provide some safe building connected with a public prison, as a part of its hospital department, to which convicts who are found, on a proper legal investigation, to be insane, may be removed; and in which they may be confined, not only for the cure of their insanity, but for the safe keeping of their persons, and for the protection of the community against their criminal propensities. Their case is very different from the case of the usual inmates of lunatic asylums. They have been convicted justly of crime; and, but for their subsequent infirmity, would expiate their offence by the usual severities and disgrace of incarceration. Lunacy should absolve them from actual punishment; but it should not involve the innocent insane in the terrors, dangers and disgrace of an association with them.

While the committee, for these reasons, feel constrained to recommend, most earnestly, the establishment of a separate institution for insane convicts, they are equally constrained to recommend a greater conformity to the usual forms of law and judicial proceeding, in solving the question of their insanity. The present looseness in that respect, produces great evil. If it be proper, as it has always been customary, to require that no person shall be deprived of the control of his person or property without an inquisition by a jury, on due legal proof, as to his capacity to control himself and his affairs; or if it be proper that a person indicted for a crime, who offers a plea of insanity for his defence, should have the question of his sanity tried by a jury; it certainly seems to be much more important, that *after a due conviction* on the verdict of a jury, under the instructions of a court, it should not lie in the mere discretion of the medical and other officers of a prison, to subvert the course of criminal justice, and to dismiss a convict from the rigid constraints of a prison to the comparative ease of an asylum, and the consequent facility of an escape to renew his offences. Whenever the question of insanity arises in respect to crime and its penalties, it should be adjudged according to the usual forms of law; and more strictly so *after a conviction* than *before it*. A conviction is the legal stamp of guilt, after all the evidence of both parties is heard: an indictment is merely the formal suggestion of it, after hearing the evidence of the accuser only. The opinion of the medical officer of a prison, (especially if he be an expert in insanity,) respecting the sanity of a convict, might suffice for some emergency, or for a temporary purpose; but it should not suffice to discharge him from punishment, nor be tantamount to an overruling of the judgments of courts and juries and the sentence of the law. An allegation of insanity, pending imprisonment, should be tested as formally, and by the same judicial modes as a plea of insanity pending a trial. The same reasons apply to both circumstances, and with more force after a conviction. Medical advisers are important in their place; but it is not their particular vocation to be the substitutes for courts and juries, or to have a substantial appellate power, enabling them, as the statutes now do, to overrule in the most informal and summary way, both courts and juries, as well as to exercise a kind of executive power by virtually remitting or modifying the punishment of crimes.

The committee do not by any means intend to intimate that the discretion of the officers of the prisons in this State, in regard to insane convicts, has been abused or misdirected. They state the case upon general principles. The insanity of convicts, like the insanity of other men, should be ascertained by the usual legal modes. The inquisition of a jury may not be absolutely the surest way of reaching the truth ; but it is the usual way, conformable to the common law, and to the feelings and customs of the country. If such an inquisition be properly required by law to test a plea of insanity interposed to an indictment before a conviction, it seems to be more requisite after a conviction when the effect of it may be to discharge the convict from a penalty to which a jury on suitable evidence, had adjudged him to be legally amenable, and to which the court had given its sanction by pronouncing a sentence according to the degree of the offence.

The whole number of convicts who become really insane is not so great as to demand extensive accommodation for their especial use ; and those who simulate insanity deserve as little accommodation as consists with security. A small appropriation for a building to be erected on the capacious grounds enclosed within the outer walls of the Auburn prison, would enable the State to make a fair experiment of a separate establishment for insane convicts ; an experiment which is demanded by humane considerations towards lunatics not under conviction for crime, as well as for the protection of the community against those who are.

The grounds of the Auburn prison have been suggested by the committee as a site, because of the centrality and healthfulness of the position, the magnitude of the area now safely inclosed (about four acres) and the economy with which the proposed experiment may be made. Should the Legislature see fit to found such an asylum, it should be placed under the general charge of the Inspectors of Prisons. But there should also be a board of visitors, having the same general powers and duties as the Managers of the State Lunatic Asylum, and to be appointed in the same manner. A majority of them should be of the vicinage to facilitate the performance of their duties.

The asylum being a part of the hospital department of the prison, the physician of the prison should be its ordinary physician and superintendent. But he should be at liberty to consult with the superintendents of such lunatic asylums as are within

the control of the State authority, and it should be made their duty, by law, to give him their advice whenever required.

The discipline of such an asylum should not, of course, be the ordinary discipline of prisons; but provision should be made for the employment of its inmates in such modes of labor as may conduce to their support, with due regard to their health, and to their physical and mental improvement. Their insanity having been duly ascertained by the inquisition of a jury before their removal from the prison proper, they should be legally presumed to be insane, and retained in the asylum, until another inquisition shall establish their sanity, and they should then be recommitted to prison to pay the prescribed penalty for their crimes. The prison physician should therefore be required in all cases, whether of feigned insanity or of presumed restoration to reason, to apply to the proper tribunal for an inquisition to establish the fact, and the verdict of the jury should determine the question of confinement whether in the prison or in the asylum.

IV. ASYLUMS FOR IDIOTS, DEAF MUTES AND THE BLIND.

STATE IDIOT ASYLUM.

The asylum for idiots was established, and commenced receiving pupils in 1851. It was first opened and placed under the direction of a board of trustees appointed by the State, a few miles north of the city of Albany, where it continued till August, 1855. The success of the undertaking being established larger accommodations were required, and it was determined to erect suitable buildings in a more favorable location.

The citizens of Syracuse having offered to contribute a sum nearly sufficient, to purchase suitable grounds near that city, eighteen acres of productive land were bought for the site of the new asylum, and in September, 1854, the corner stone of the new edifice was laid. The site is an elevated one, being sixty feet above the general level of the plain, upon which the city of Syracuse is built, and commands a fine view of the surrounding country. The building which presents a pleasing exterior, was completed in August, 1855, and the pupils removed to it in the following month. It is constructed according to a plan submitted to the Legislature in 1855. The convenience comfort and safety of the pupils are apparently well provided for; the school rooms are hardly surpassed in convenience of arrangement by

any in the State; the whole are well warmed, the dormitories well ventilated, and a large gymnasium affords all necessary facilities for training the physical organs, so necessary to children of this class. The whole property has not cost over 75,000 dollars; and an examination of the buildings convinced the committee that the money of the State has been judiciously and economically expended by the trustees.

The asylum is capable of accommodating 150 pupils, and there are now 104 under instruction. The annual expenses will be found to be 16,000 dollars and last year \$2,333.88 was received from paying pupils. In consequence of the failure of the annual appropriation a considerable balance against the asylum has accumulated, which the trustees have been compelled to borrow upon their individual responsibility, and from which they should be promptly relieved. By its failure also the operations of the asylum for the current year have been greatly retarded; a number of indigent idiotic children entitled to admission have been refused, and provision ought to be made if possible against the effects of a similar occurrence. It is highly important that the grounds should be enlarged by the purchase of the adjoining land on the north side of, and very near to the principal edifice, and it is supposed that this is a favorable time for obtaining it.

The committee had full opportunity to witness the system of instruction in the asylum, the chief object of which is to raise the imbecile from his degradation and awaken him to a consciousness of existence as a moral and intellectual being; and it was truly gratifying to find that these unfortunate ones are susceptible of a high degree of improvement. This however can only be accomplished by a skilful, enthusiastic, patient superintendent; assisted by teachers possessing similar qualifications, and it was noticed by the committee that those chosen for this difficult task, were all females, whose gentleness and patience commended them to his choice. The condition of most of those received here can hardly be known except to those who have visited the asylum. Commissioners appointed by the Legislature of a neighboring state to visit this institution, said of them: many are pitiable objects, often unable to walk or speak, uttering the peculiar moan of the idiot, frequently malicious, violent, destructive and filthy in their habits; it would seem that they were beyond the reach of human aid—monuments of God's anger—but this is not the view the superintendent and the teachers take of them. Past

experience has convinced them, that these beclouded intellects into which the first ray of reason has not yet shown may be enlightened, that these brutal natures may yet offer from humble and loving hearts their petitions for pardon, and their orisons of praise to our COMMON FATHER.

The State of New York was the first to erect a State Idiot Asylum, and has now the satisfaction of having successfully demonstrated that those usually called idiots may be so trained and instructed as to render them useful to themselves and fitted at least to learn some of the ordinary trades, or to engage in agriculture, and her citizens as they pass her great western thoroughfares may now point to this elevated building, as evidence of the wisdom of the undertaking, and completing the circle of our State's charities, now embracing every class whose infirmities call for public aid.

The committee visited and examined the institution for the instruction of the deaf and dumb and the asylum for the blind, and refer to the appendix for particulars respecting their condition and progress.

V. HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES AND INFIRMARIES.

With respect to these institutions the committee refer for particulars to the account given of them in the appendix. They are under good management, and deserve the commendation of the committee, as well as continued encouragement and benefactions.

VI. HOUSES OF REFUGE.

The State of New-York claims to have been first in the United States in establishing houses of reformation for juvenile delinquents.

The New-York house of refuge is now in the extent of its operations, the greatest reform school in the world. Established in 1824, it has served as a model to the various houses since established elsewhere. In 1848 the State purchased a small farm near Rochester, and erected a house of refuge, and placed it under the care of a board of managers.

These houses of refuge are under similar regulations; the institution in New-York receiving both boys and girls from all parts

of the State, the one in Rochester receiving boys only, both being schools of reformation—receiving such children only, as are committed by judges or police magistrates, and retaining the control of them till they are of age. Strictly parental in their government, the managers take the place of the parent who has forfeited his natural claim to guardianship, and educate and discipline the child for the period the parent would discharge the same duty; and they receive them in full confidence that though stained with crime, the stains may be washed away, and past deficiencies be remedied by instruction and discipline. Here the State provides a home for the neglected erring child, and in many cases a more comfortable and happy home than they have ever known before; where they are properly provided for—receive instruction in the ordinary branches of a common school education; are trained to habits of industry, and have instilled into their minds those principles of moral and religious truth, which will fit them for a life of virtue, happiness and usefulness. After remaining in the house a sufficient time, which varies in different cases, but averaging perhaps a year and a half, they are indentured to persons of good character, living in the country, away from their former companions and thickly spread snares of the city; and it is found that there is no want of demand for these children as apprentices, which shows that their training makes them valuable as such, and that there is no stigma branded upon their characters—and their conceptions of their own position is transformed into earnest confidence and hopeful aspirations. They leave the refuge feeling a sense of independence, that their stains are washed out, that they are restored, and look back in after life to these houses of mercy, invoking blessings on those by whose interposition the headlong current of their early life was stayed, and turned into channels of private worth and social usefulness and respectability.

VII. JAILS AND PENITENTIARIES.

Nearly all of the jails in the State are insufficient to fulfill the purposes contemplated by law. No adequate provisions are usually made by the counties to enable the jailer, however well disposed, to discharge the duty which is clearly enough imposed on him by the statutes. Witnesses and criminals are often confined in the same apartment, (not unfrequently a *cell*,) and females, without discrimination of the various causes for their commitment, are compelled to associate together. In one instance, the committee found a lad of eight years confined in a cell with two

old offenders, one charged with rape, and the other with burglary. Cases not unlike this are common. (Note F.)

Many of the jails are extremely unhealthy places of confinement. They are insecurely built, damp, and unventilated, and the air which the inmates are compelled to respire continually, is very offensive and productive of disease.

The statutes require that each room or cell in a jail shall be provided with a Bible. This is often disregarded. They also require the classification of prisoners; and to this point the committee were particular in making inquiries. In most cases the answers were to the effect that the jail accommodations were such as to forbid such a classification; and a personal inspection by the committee usually corroborated the truth of the answers. For this grave omission of duty, the county authorities are responsible, rather than the subordinates in immediate charge of the jails; many of whom seem disposed to conform to the law as closely as their limited means will permit; but so little attention has been paid to the just requirements of the law, that there are but fifteen jails in the State in which prisoners can be classified, and only thirty-two in which they are supplied with Bibles. (Note G.)

Grand juries have from time to time visited these county prisons, and presented many of them as nuisances; but the mere presentment of them has no legal effect, and serves merely to call the public attention, in a formal way, to the existence of the evils. If such presentments could be made to assume the legal force of an indictment against the supervisors, the jailer, or other delinquent whose duty has evidently been grossly neglected, they might have an effect in ameliorating the state of the jails, and producing a conformity to the humane and politic intentions of the law, which are now sadly overlooked or perverted. The committee suggest that an amendment of the statutes might provide that whenever such presentments are made by the grand inquest, it shall be the duty of the court receiving the presentment forthwith to require the district attorney to frame an indictment against the actual or presumed delinquents, and to detain the grand jury until they shall find or ignore it.

The whole number of persons confined in the jails is 678, and intemperance is the cause of the confinement of three-fourths, or 75 per cent. of the whole number. The average cost of their

support, so far as it could be ascertained, is about two dollars and twenty-six cents each per week.

Compared with the cost of supporting paupers and orphans, the cost of supporting criminals would seem extravagant. In a punitive respect, it would be more humane and consistent with justice that the case should be reversed.

In the three penitentiaries of this State there are 1212 inmates, as stated in table C annexed to this report, showing that the whole number in penitentiaries, jails, houses of refuge and work houses, is 3863.

The committee cannot close their remarks on the jails of our State, without alluding to one other point in connexion with this subject. Observation has led us to the conclusion that one at least of the objects of imprisonment of those guilty of crimes and misdemeanors is lost sight of. The community at large, officers of justice, jailers and keepers of penitentiaries, seem to think that violators of good and wholesome laws, should not only suffer the penalty attached to the violated laws, but the association of wrong doing and criminality with the criminals, leads many to feel that the wrong doer has by his wickedness cast himself beyond the reach of human sympathy. Hence he is too often treated as an out-cast, and is not only incarcerated within the walls of a prison, but when there, often treated inhumanely.

The facts stated above show most conclusively that in a very large majority of our jails, prisoners cannot be confined long, without serious injury to their health; cold, damp, many of the cells below the surface of the surrounding grounds; with no means of ventilation, the inmates breath the same foul atmosphere day after day, and are supplied, too, often, with coarse and insufficient food, straw for a bed, no employment to help them pass their dreary hours, the old and hardened criminal associated with the juvenile offender instructing him in all the tricks and devices of the most depraved. What wonder is it that he comes out of prison, not only a more hardened villain, but mad with all the world! He may feel he has done wrong in the commission of the crime for which he was imprisoned, but he still feels he is a human being and entitled to humane treatment. Instead of receiving this, his bodily sufferings have been such as to make him look upon every man he meets as his enemy, and he goes forth to commit further depredations upon society.

We believe that offenders against our laws, should be subject to the penalty of the violated laws.

Punishment should be sure to follow transgression. The object of confinement should be, not only the punishment of the offender, and the protection of community against further depredations, but should also seek the reformation of the criminal. It should be so conducted, and tempered with mercy that when the offender goes forth after his incarceration, he will be a reformed man, an honest citizen. This can only be done by a change in the construction, and in the government of most of our jails; making them more healthy by constructing them in all cases above the surface of the surrounding grounds; by providing means for free ventilation and cleanliness, better food for the inmates, a proper classification of the prisoners, constant employment; not suffering the old hardened criminal to corrupt the youthful delinquent by the history of his own deeds of villainy, and last, though not least, by affording suitable moral and religious instruction. Thus teaching them, that the path of rectitude is the only path to respectability.

The most fertile source of pauperism, lunacy, and crime, as all statistics respecting these evils show, is intemperance. It sends to the lunatic asylums a large proportion of their inmates, to the poor houses seventy per cent., and to the jails seventy-five per cent. The propensity to it is either inherited or acquired. In one case, it is a disease; in the other it may become so. In either case, it demands peculiar treatment, the result of which, whether for restraint or cure, would usually be favorable to the patient and to the community. The Legislature, satisfied of this, has accordingly passed a law incorporating an institution for the care, reformation, and restoration of inebriates. Should it prove a successful experiment, it would obviate a great difficulty now existing in the way of classifying the inmates of our charitable and reformatory institutions. It would provide a proper retreat for many of them, and thus open the doors of other institutions for the admission of suitable cases which are now excluded from the asylum they need. The experiment, therefore, should receive such encouragement from the State as its importance, in an economical view, seems to require.

There are various associations in the State, and particularly in the cities and larger towns, for charity, reform and education, which not receiving aid from the State, do not fall within the

terms of the resolution of the Senate under which the committee have pursued their investigations. Many of them, however, have been visited by the committee for purposes of information and of comparison with other institutions of a kindred character which were the legitimate subjects of visitation. They are generally supported by private endowments and contributions, with occasional aid, perhaps, from the local authorities. Homes for the friendless, and industrial and other schools are of this class; charities devoted to the maintenance or training of vagrant and destitute children, to the care and protection of young females out of employment or in reduced circumstances, as well as of aged or decrepid women. They deserve to be favorably regarded when the Legislature is considering any general and economical plan of charity or reform. Those, more particularly, which have for their object the support and training of destitute children, and their salvation from the evils of vagrancy, idle habits, and vicious examples, are worthy of attention and encouragement. The management of such charitable enterprises happens fortunately to be confided mainly to benevolent women, whose thrift, economy of expenditure, skill in management, and tenderness of feeling, enable them to produce greater results with less means than is the usual fortune of the other sex. The public bounty bestowed on such institutions, under such management, goes farther and is more certain of producing a suitable return, than the usual application of it. It gives the committee great pleasure to commend such charities to approval and support, as no insignificant part of the great scheme of benevolence and reformation which it is the duty of every good government to maintain.

The general result of the examinations made by the committee, is a conviction of the necessity of providing by law :

1st. For a more efficient and constant supervision of all the charitable and reformatory institutions which participate in the public bounty, or are supported by taxation; and a commission of well qualified persons, to be appointed by the Governor and Senate, with such arrangement of the terms of service as will constantly secure experience, appears to be the best mode of effecting the purpose.

2d. For the better regulation of poor houses, so as to make fit asylums for the worthy indigent; for which purpose better structures than now commonly exist, should be legally required, with

such arrangements for warmth, ventilation, bathing, classification of the inmates, separation of the sexes, labor, medical attendance, instruction, and religious exercises, as decency, health, and sound morals demand.

3d. For the better maintenance, and education of pauper children, either in the orphan asylums, or in such local institutions as may be established in the several judicial districts by special provisions of law.

4th. For the establishment of two or more asylums for the insane, in addition to the existing asylums, and to be under similar control and management with the State asylum.

5th. For the establishment of an asylum for *insane* convicts in the prisons grounds at Auburn.

6th. For the more efficient regulation of county jails in regard to their structure, and most of the particulars requisite for the better regulation of poor houses as above specified. (Note H.)

7th. For a revision of the poor laws. (Note I.)

Respectfully submitted.

MARK SPENCER.

GEO. W. BRADFORD.

M. LINDLEY LEE.

APPENDIX.

I. POOR HOUSES.

ALBANY CITY AND COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

This establishment located at the city of Albany, embraces four buildings constructed of brick, two stories in height above the basements, one in size 40 x 70 feet and two others 32 x 90 feet, connected with a farm of 216 acres, yielding an annual revenue estimated at \$6,000.00. The basements of one building are used for domestic purposes, the others are unoccupied. In the poor house *proper* are 10 rooms, warmed by furnaces and stoves, but with very little ventilation. This building was erected 34 years ago. From six to forty paupers are placed in a single room.

The number of inmates was 319, 120 males and 299 females. Of these three-fourths are foreign born, and eighty are under six years of age. The sexes are kept separate, only meeting at their meals, which are eaten in the same mess-room.

The average number of inmates is 350, and the keeper reports that the number is declining, and states as causes of such decline, a reduction in the amount of emigration, and the improved system adopted by the Commissioners of Emigration in forwarding emigrants to their destinations. They are supported at an average monthly cost of ninety cents, exclusive of the products of the farm. As is common, the paupers who are able are employed on the farm and about the house. Once during the past year the supervisors have visited and inspected the house, in a body. It is supplied with bibles, and the city missionary preaches once or twice each Sabbath. A teacher is employed in the house during the whole year, who teaches the common English branches to an average number of about fifty children. On arriving at proper age they are bound out to various trades and employments, by the overseer of poor of the city. The common council of Albany, impose rules and regulations for the government of the house, and under their direction supplies are furnished. The fare of the paupers is plain and wholesome. To attend the paupers, a phy-

sician is employed at an annual salary of \$800. He is assisted by two resident medical students, who are boarded for their services. The physician visits once each day and the students twice. For bathing, two bath-rooms are furnished in the insane asylum and two in the fever hospital. During the past year, have occurred in the house thirty-two births and seventy-one deaths. The keeper thinks twenty-five of these births were illegitimate offspring. During the same time the inmates have suffered from small pox, typhoid fever and dysentery. They have a good pest or fever house, constructed of brick twenty-four by one hundred feet and two stories high above the basements. It is heated by furnaces, and is quite well ventilated by numerous openings into a hollow wall. It embraces four wards, with capacity for one hundred beds. There are now in hospital thirty-two sick; only two cases of fever, the residue chronic cases.

Of the inmates seventy-three are lunatics, thirty-two males and forty-one females, seventy are paupers, the remaining, three cases pay from \$3.00 to \$4.50 per week. There is provided an insane asylum in connection with the alms house, built of brick, forty by ninety feet, two stories in height, containing thirty-eight rooms above and eight in the basement, with convenient halls and yards. Thirty-nine lunatics have been admitted during the past year. They are under the care of the house physician, who is required to devote to them particular attention, and four attendants, two male and two female. Two are confined in cells or small rooms, which is the only kind of restraint used. When out of the building they are confined in commodious yards. Seven during the year have been dismissed as cured, and two improved. It is judged that two thirds of the whole number of insane may be safely pronounced improved. One lunatic escaped on the 5th of January last and froze to death. Frequent application has been made for admission to the State institution, and refused.

Four of the paupers are idiots, three males and one female, two are under sixteen years of age. There is one deaf and dumb, fourteen years old, and three blind.

No corporal punishment is administered in the house.

One half, at least, of the paupers are reduced to their present position by reason of intemperate habits.

ALLEGANY COUNTY HOUSE.

This house is located two miles from Angelica. It is of good size, two stories in height, and built mainly of stone; connected with it is a farm of 180 acres, yielding a revenue of \$1000. The basements are not occupied by the paupers. There are seventeen rooms or wards warmed by stoves, but without ventilation. The number of inmates is seventy, the sexes being about equally divided. Of these two-thirds are of foreign birth, and eight under sixteen years of age. The sexes are separated at night. They are under two keepers, both male. The average number of inmates is fifty-seven, supported at a weekly cost of \$1.03, exclusive of the products of the farm. The paupers are employed on the farm and about the house. The supervisors have once during the past year visited the house. There is no religious instruction furnished, nor is the house supplied with bibles. The children attend the district school. The superintendents furnish to the paupers a plain and wholesome fare. A physician is employed at a salary of \$80, who visits the house once each week, and oftener when called. No provision is made for bathing. During the year there have been five births and eight deaths. Of the inmates four are lunatics, two males and two females; all are paupers. One, a female, is constantly confined in a cell. The insane are generally confined in this way, sometimes by the ball and chain. None within the last year are reported improved or cured. They have no attendance of any kind. Their cells are of the most filthy and loathsome description. They sleep only on straw, and make their evacuations in their rooms, which are seldom if ever cleaned. They are treated barbarously. The lunatics frequently escape; one last spring, of whom no trace was found, and it was represented *that he starved in the woods*. Seven of the inmates are idiots; four males and three females. Intemperance brings here two-thirds of the paupers.

There is at this time no regular keeper in charge of the house, but only an ordinary hired man attending on both women and men. The superintendent of the poor chanced to be at the house during the visit of the committee, and being asked if corporal punishment was administered to the paupers, replied that the keeper sometimes gave the unruly ones a "tanning;" and being asked what that signified, said "he took them by the collar and flogged them with a rawhide." The house is poorly kept.

BROOME COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

This house is located three miles from Binghamton, and consists of three buildings, two of them of the following size, 34 x 40 and 20 x 24 feet, affording seventeen rooms for the occupancy of the paupers, but without ventilation and no provision for bathing. It is warmed by stoves. The number of inmates was thirty-seven—fourteen male and twenty-three female; three foreign and thirty-four native born, including five children under sixteen years of age. From one to six beds are placed in a room. The average number is forty-five. They are under the care of one keeper, who with his wife provides for the wants of the family, and with the assistance of the paupers work also a farm of 130 acres.

The inmates are supplied with plain substantial food, which is purchased by the keeper, who also regulates and determines the amount and quality of food. The sexes are kept in different buildings but meet during the day in the performance of their respective duties—at night the separation is complete. One of the superintendents of the poor, is a physician, and has charge of the medical treatment of the family. During the year there has been one birth and one death. The children are sent to the district school, and when of suitable age are bound out by the superintendents. The house is supplied with bibles, but enjoys no other religious privileges specially.

The weekly cost of the inmates is \$1.08 each, aside from the products of the farm, estimated to be worth \$800 annually. One third of the inmates come here consequent upon habits of inebriation.

Twenty-one of the paupers are lunatics; eight males and thirteen females, not one of whom has been cured or improved during the year, nor do they receive any special attention as insane, more than the other paupers. All are locked in cells at night, only one constantly in confinement, no other restraints are employed. The most of the insane are mild and inoffensive, some of them verging upon idiocy.

To the twenty-one lunatics out of the thirty-seven in the house, eleven are to be set down as idiots, three males and eight females, several of whom are promising subjects for Dr. Wilbur of the state idiotic asylum.

The buildings are insufficient to meet the varied wants of such a family, but have the appearance of being well kept.

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY HOUSE

Is built of wood, thirty-six by thirty-eight feet long. Connected is a farm of 200 acres, yielding a revenue of \$1000. There are no basements. There are nine rooms or wards warmed by stoves and without ventilation. The number of inmates is thirty, one-half males. Twenty-three are of native and seven of foreign birth. Four are under sixteen years of age. There is a complete separation of the sexes; they are under the care of a single keeper. The average number of inmates is thirty-five, supported at a weekly cost of \$1.40 each. The paupers are employed on the farm and in domestic avocations. The house has not been inspected by the supervisors during the year. The house is partially supplied with bibles, and there is a church near, where the paupers attend if they choose. The children attend the district school. The superintendents furnish supplies and regulate the government of the house, and prescribe the system of diet. The fare is plain and wholesome. A physician is employed by the year at a salary of \$65, who attends when called. During the year have occurred three births and two deaths. No contagious disease has prevailed. Of the inmates three are lunatics, all males, and all paupers. For the accommodation of the insane are two small houses; one an old and dilapidated one, very cold in the winter from its loose construction and much decay, and at all times particularly offensive from the accumulation of filth; the other is a new structure, though an inferior one, and illy planned. This, from some reason, is very little used. In these cells the insane sleep on straw, with very little clothing, the straw becoming filled with filth before being changed. Two are confined in these cells. The insane are attended by a male pauper. *None* during the year are improved or cured; they receive only the same medical attendance as the remaining paupers. No application has been made for admission to the State asylum. In the house is one idiot and one blind person. Intemperance is the cause of one-half of pauperism here. The house is a poor one, and the poor, especially the insane, are illy cared for.

CAYUGA COUNTY HOUSE,

Is located about three miles from the city of Auburn. The structure is a long wooden building of two stories, quite ancient and dilapidated, being for the most part occupied as a farm house

prior to its purchase by the county, and conversion to its present uses. There is a farm attached of ninety acres all in a state of cultivation. The house contains about thirty rooms, wards and cells, almost all of which are small, confined and destitute of all means of ventilation. The building is warmed by stoves. The number of inmates was seventy ; forty males, thirty females ; fifteen of them are under sixteen years of age. They are bound as apprentices by the superintendents of the poor on reaching this age, or as soon as suitable opportunities present. About one hundred is the average number of inmates, and three-fourths of these are of foreign birth. During the day the sexes mingle promiscuously, but at night there is an attempt at separation. The males who are able labor on the farm. Their fare is plain and wholesome, furnished by the superintendents at a weekly cost of seventy cents each. For four months during the past year a school has been kept in the house for the instruction of children, and others disposed to attend. Of religious instruction there is none save occasional preaching during the summer months. The house is supplied with bibles. Six deaths have occurred since last December, at which time the present keeper, took charge of the house. There was but a single birth. A physician is employed by the year and visits the house once a week and oftener if called. Connected with the house are no facilities for bathing and the appearance of the paupers would indicate an entire ignorance of the bath and its uses.

Nine lunatics were found here; five males, four females; all paupers. Three of them have been at the State Lunatic Asylum, and returned to the county. They are attended by the keeper of the house but receive no special attention. Those disposed to violence are often placed in small dark cells, but as we are informed, only for a single day or night. As a means of restraint the ball and chain is frequently used. In the winter they are often placed in cells, without means of warmth, and their limbs frequently become frozen. It is *rumored*, that some even have died from this exposure. They receive no medical attendance unless physically ill, when the house physician prescribes. Three have been admitted since last December. The construction of the house allows of no classification and except where furious, the insane mingle with the other paupers. Nine have been improved or cured since entering the house. Three of the paupers are idiots; all females.

During the year no contagious disease has visited the house. As a precautionary measure a small but neat "pest house" has been erected a short distance from the main buildings. This is not yet finished and furnished, otherwise it might well be used to relieve the main building of some of its too crowded inmates.

From its age and original faulty construction, the main structure is now utterly unfit for the purpose for which it is used. At all seasons of the year it is impossible properly to ventilate the rooms and to a person in health the sensation produced on entering them is nauseous and sickening. The ill and the maimed, the filthy and the diseased are crowded in the same rooms, and in many cases lie on the floor together, wrapped in wretched blankets, more like beasts than human beings. As many as ten is the usual number so placed together in one room.

The basement is low—this part of the building is quite open and so illy supplied with stoves as to be seldom sufficiently warm in winter. Some rooms or cells are never warmed, and in these, when the building is crowded, the paupers are made to sleep without other covering than their wearing apparel. During last winter a number of emigrants, sick with ship fever, were sent to the house. These men, women and children were placed in these basement cells, in size about eight by ten feet, fourteen in each cell, with no stoves or other means of warmth, with no covering for their protection at night and nothing but some straw litter to keep them from the damp floor. At this time the mercury was twenty degrees below zero. Of course numbers were frozen. The house is a disgrace to the county, and in no way fit for the reception of paupers.

CHAUTAUQUE COUNTY HOUSE,

Is an old and dilapidated building of wood and brick, erected in 1832, in size thirty-two by ninety-six, with a wing, twenty-four by sixty feet, aside from these is a small building for the insane; attached is a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, yielding a revenue of \$2,000. There are no basements. The rooms are warmed by stoves, but are without means of ventilation. The number of inmates was fifty-six; forty males, sixteen females. Of these forty-six are native born, ten foreign, and seven under sixteen years of age. The sexes are separated only at night; they are under two keepers, male and female. In one room as many as thirty-two persons were placed.

The average number of inmates is one hundred and thirty, supported at a weekly cost of forty-four cents. The paupers are employed on the farm and about the house. The house has not been visited during the year by the supervisors. It is supplied with Bibles; though no provision is made for religious instruction they often have service on the Sabbath. A common school is taught in the house during six or eight months of the year. The fare of the paupers is plain and wholesome and supplied by the keeper. For medical attendance a physician is called when needed and paid per visit. During the year there have occurred six births and seventeen deaths. They have no pest house.

Of the inmates twelve are lunatics; six males, six females; all are paupers and six of them have been treated at the State asylum. They have no particular medical attendance. A small wooden building, size twenty-six by forty feet, has recently been erected for their accommodation, though hardly fitted for its designed purpose. The cells are small, illy ventilated and constructed of rough hemlock boards and plank, in which the lunatics are confined with no bedding but straw, and an insufficient supply of clothing. The building is so open that it is impossible properly to warm it in winter. Four are confined in cells. They are also sometimes restrained by the "mittens." The construction of the house is such as to allow classification; the power of discharge is exercised by the superintendents. Application has been made during the year, for admission to the Utica asylum in six cases, and as often refused. The lunatics sometimes escape and are never again heard from. Ten of the paupers are idiotic, all males. There is one blind. Two-thirds are brought here through intemperance.

CHEMUNG COUNTY POOR HOUSE,

Is located at Horseheads. The main building is sixty by forty feet with an out building, forty by twenty feet, furnishing eleven rooms and five cells, with no means of ventilation and no provision for bathing, it is heated by stoves. Connected with the house is a farm of 180 acres, yielding an annual revenue of about \$1000. The number of paupers was fifty-two, one half males and one half females, thirty-five of whom were foreign and seventeen native born, embracing thirteen children under sixteen years of age, all under the care of one keeper, who with his wife assisted by pauper labor, work the farm and provide for the family. The superintendent purchases all needful supplies aside from the pro-

ducts of the farm, and imposes rules regulating the diet. Binds out the children on their arriving at a suitable age, and exercises the power of discharging lunatics when cured. The house is supplied with bibles, but no provision is made for instruction religiously or otherwise. The average number accommodated in this house is seventy. The board of supervisors occasionally visit here. A physician is employed by the year, at a salary of \$55.00 to visit the house once a week, and as much oftener as his services may be required. During the past year eight have died, there have also been 9 births, (seven illegitimate,) one originating in the house.

Six of the inmates are lunatics, four males and two females, and all paupers; two have been received during the year, but none have been improved or cured. They are allowed their liberty during the day, but are locked each in separate cells all night. The mode of restraining the insane is by hand cuff, and shutting them in cells. They receive no special attention either medically or otherwise. Three of the paupers are idiots, two males and one female, and two-thirds of the whole number are reduced to the necessity of sharing in public charity, consequent upon habits of inebriation.

The paupers seem to be well fed and cared for, costing eighty cents per week per head, aside from the products of the farm. But the house is too small to afford adequate accommodation; the lodging rooms are too crowded for comfort or health.

CHENANGO COUNTY POOR HOUSE,

Is located at Preston, and consists of a number of buildings, as poor and broken as the inmates they contain, entirely unsuited and insufficient properly to answer the ends for which they are appropriated. It was stated that during the last winter some of the apartments were so open as to admit the snow. It was further stated that the board of supervisors for the last few years had discontinued their visits to the house. These buildings have twenty-nine apartments appropriated to the use of the paupers, but with no special provision for ventilation, and in which from one to twenty are placed. Nor is there any provisions for bathing. It is warmed by stoves. Connected with the house is a farm of one hundred and seventy acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$800. The number of inmates was eighty; thirty-five male and forty-five female; seventy-three native and seven foreign born,

including twenty-five children. The paupers commingle freely throughout the day, but at night the males and females are placed in separate departments. All are under the care of one keeper and his wife, assisted by the paupers.

The superintendent of the poor purchases the supplies for the house, and imposes rules regulating the diet of the inmates. The food furnished is plain, substantial fare. The weekly cost of the support of the paupers is fifty-six cents each. Religious services are held once in two weeks. The house is but partially supplied with Bibles. A school has been taught in the house six months the past year. A physician is employed, who charges for his services by the visit. There have been nine births during the year, (six of them illegitimate,) and ten deaths. The average number of the inmates is about ninety. Of the inmates, eight are lunatics, three males and five females, and all paupers. Three have been received during the past year. The lunatics have no special attendants, and receive no special medical attention. One has recovered, and four are kept constantly confined in *dark filthy* cells. The modes of restraining adopted are the straight jacket, handcuff, and confinement in cells. The house does not admit of the classification of the insane. The "fool house," as it was called, was disgusting in the extreme. Will not some humane member of the board of supervisors espouse and plead the cause of the poor lunatics? Seven of the paupers are idiots, and two of them under twenty years of age.

Three-fourths of the recipients of public charity in this county become so consequent upon habits of inebriation.

CLINTON COUNTY HOUSE,

Is located four miles from Plattsburg. The building is an extremely old one, of stone, sixty by thirty feet, two stories high. It has been built twenty-eight years, and is very much dilapidated. Attached is a farm of ninety acres, yielding a gross revenue of \$800. The basements are occupied for domestic purposes. In the house are fourteen rooms or wards, indifferently warmed by stoves, but destitute of ventilation, except what may be afforded by the cracks and crevices of the walls and ceiling. The ceilings are very low, and the air close and bad. In the winter water freezes in the rooms, and the snow blowing through the crevices forms banks. Sometimes twenty paupers are placed in a single room, usually as many as it will hold.

The number of inmates was forty-eight—thirty-two males, sixteen females. Of these, three-fourths were foreign born, and eleven under sixteen years of age. The sexes are not separated either day or night, but mingle promiscuously. There is one keeper assisted by a man who works the farm. The average number of inmates is sixty-five, supported at a weekly cost of \$1.00 each. The males are employed on the farm, and the women about the house. The supervisors have visited the house once during the year. There is no religious instruction furnished except through an occasional funeral service, which is performed whenever the dying pauper *particularly* requests it; neither is the house furnished with Bibles. There is no provision made for other instruction; the district school refuses to receive the children, and they were at large. At sixteen years of age they are bound out by the superintendents. The superintendents regulate the government and system of diet, and furnish supplies. Since the first of March last, a plain, wholesome diet has been furnished the paupers. At that date the present keeper took charge of the house. Prior to that time their diet is reported to have consisted of *pea and bran soup; Indian pudding and sweetened water*. They used no knives and forks. The new keeper found every one of the inmates ailing, and most of them confined to their rooms and beds. Besides this, the rooms were so filthy, and the air so impure, as to immediately sicken a healthy person entering them. From the present appearance of the house, improved as the keeper reports it is, the committee find no difficulty in giving credence to the foregoing statements. The water is obtained from springs located at the foot of a slope, which is the focus of drains from the barnyards and privies of the establishment; as a consequence the water is extremely impure and unfit for use. A physician is employed at a salary of \$75 per annum, who attends whenever called. During the year have occurred three births and six deaths. No pestilential disease has raged. No pest house is provided.

Of the inmates six are lunatics, one male, five females, and all paupers. Two have been admitted within the year. They have no medical or other special attendance. Two are confined the whole time in cells, chained to the floor, with straw for a bed. Two others are confined, but only at night. As a mechanical restraint the ball and chain are used. The cells are without ventilation and exceedingly filthy. One lunatic has escaped since March last, and no intelligence has since been received regarding him.

The construction of the house is not such as to allow of classification. The superintendents alone exercise the power of discharge. Ten of the inmates are idiots—eight males, two females. But *one* is under twenty years of age. There is *one blind*. As a means of punishment, paupers are shut in dark cells, and a *rawhide* is *sometimes used*.

Intemperance is here reported as the direct cause of one-half the pauperism.

This house is a very poor one, indifferently kept, and a disgrace to the county in which it is located.

COLUMBIA COUNTY HOUSE.

This establishment consists of a number of wooden buildings of various sizes and forms, all two stories in height; connected is a farm of 204 acres, yielding a revenue of \$1,400. The basements are occupied as kitchens, &c., &c. In the buildings are eighteen rooms, or wards, occupied by the paupers and warmed by stoves, but not at all ventilated; the ceilings are seven feet high. The number of inmates was 187; 112 males and 75 females. Of these one-third are of foreign birth and thirty-four under sixteen years of age. The sexes are kept separate; they are under a single keeper who has charge of the house. The average number of inmates is 208, supported at a weekly cost of \$1.00. The more able paupers labor on the farm and about the house. Once the supervisors have visited the house during the past year. It is supplied with Bibles, and religious services are attended twice each month. For the instruction of the young a school is taught in the house during the whole year, and the boys are kept entirely separate and apart from the older paupers. The superintendents of the poor procure supplies, regulate the government of the house, bind out the children on their arrival at proper age, and exercise the power of discharging lunatics. The fare of the paupers consists of meat, bread and vegetables, of good quality. Tea and butter are also furnished daily. A physician is employed by the year. No facilities are afforded for bathing. During the year have occurred in the house twelve births and fifteen deaths. No contagious disease has prevailed. A fever or pest-house is connected with the establishment. Of the inmates thirty-five are lunatics, fifteen males and twenty females; all are paupers, save two, who each pay one dollar a week; eight have been admitted within the year. Their only attendance is from the same paupers.

Four are confined in cells, one of whom has been so confined three years. They are also restrained by mitts and by the ball and chain. *The keeper says he sometimes whips the lunatics, but that "he believes it does no good."* Five of the inmates are idiots, two males and three females. Three-fourths of the paupers are brought here by intemperance.

During the year two lunatics have escaped from the house, and no search was instituted for their recovery. The children here are kept clean, and well clothed, and are in all respects well cared for. The house is very badly constructed, but is kept clean, and the inmates well fed. The cells, of which there are twenty-four, are clean, and beds are provided in them whenever the lunatics will allow them to remain.

CORTLAND COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is located about two miles from the village of Homer. It is an old two story wooden building, thirty by sixty feet, with a wing, twenty-two by sixty, one and a half story, also an asylum, twenty-two by fifty feet, one story, to which is attached a farm consisting of 118 acres, and yielding a revenue of \$600. The number of rooms appropriated to the use of the paupers is twenty-five, including ten cells for the insane. It is warmed by means of stoves and fire places. The rooms have low ceilings, and no ventilation.

Fifty-two inmates were found in the house which is about the average number, of these twenty-four were males and twenty-eight females, of whom two were foreign and fifty native born, in charge of one keeper and his wife, who has also as is usual the oversight and management of the poor house farm. The sexes are separated at night and also during the day, except as they come in contact in the discharge of duties about the house.

There were nine children under sixteen years of age, all of whom of suitable age attended the district school.

The inmates are distributed through the house in groups, from one to six a room. A physician is employed by the year, at a salary of \$40, and is required to respond at all times when called upon, and although there are two penstocks discharging pure clear water in the yard, the year round the house is destitute of a bath; an omission under the circumstances that seems singular when viewed as a question of economy or health.

The paupers are supplied by or under the direction of the superintendent of the poor, with plain wholesome food, consisting of meat, vegetables, milk and butter, at an average weekly cost of 65 cents each, the paupers assisting according to their several abilities in the performance of the work upon the farm and about the house. The house is supplied with Bibles, and preaching is enjoyed at 5 P. M. every Sabbath, the services being performed by neighboring clergymen in rotation and without compensation. When the children attain suitable age they are bound out by the superintendent.

The house has been visited once by the board of supervisors during the year. There have been during the same time seven deaths and three births. Of the inmates ten are lunatics, five males and five females, nine of whom are paupers. During the year four have been received, three of these lunatics are confined in cells night and day, and the remainder only nights. Of the above number, not one has been cured or improved, but one has escaped and has never been found. The forms of restraints used, are confinement in cells, hand cuffs and occasionally *slapping*. The accommodations for the insane admit of a partial classification, but they enjoy no special attention either medically or otherwise. The superintendent delegates to the keeper the right to discharge lunatics in his discretion.

Of the inmates three are idiots, one male and two females, the boy about ten years old.

Two-thirds of the whole number supported at this house are brought there consequent upon habits of inebriation.

DELAWARE COUNTY HOUSE.

This is a two-story house of wood, very old and dilapidated, thirty by forty feet. Beside this is an asylum twenty-five by thirty feet. Attached is a farm of one hundred and seventy-five acres yielding a revenue of \$250.00. The basements are used only for the storage of produce. In the house are twelve rooms heated by stoves and furnaces, destitute of ventilation and with extremely low ceilings. The number of inmates was fifty-eight; twenty-five males and thirty-three females; of these two-thirds are native and one-third foreign born; eleven are under sixteen years of age. The sexes are kept separate. They are under one keeper assisted by his wife. From two to twelve paupers are

placed in a single room. The average number of inmates is sixty-five; supported at an average weekly cost of one dollar. The able males are employed on the farm and the women about the house. Once during the year past the supervisors have visited the house. It is supplied with Bibles, and there are occasional religious services; the children are sent to the district school. The superintendent procures supplies for the house, and prescribes rules and regulations concerning government and system of diet. He also binds out the children and exercises the power of discharging lunatics. A physician is employed by the year, who visits the house when called. There are no arrangements for bathing and no water for the house except what is drawn from the river. They have a well, which is now (August 16,) dry. During the year have occurred seven deaths.

Of the inmates, thirteen are lunatic; three males, ten females, all except one are paupers. For the reception of lunatics is erected another and separate building, in size twenty-five by thirty feet. In this are fourteen cells, close and without means of light or ventilation, except by a small diamond hole in the door. The inmates sleep on straw changed once a week. Two are confined in these cells the whole time and all at night. They have no special medical or other attendance. Sometimes they are restrained by handcuffs. The keeper reports two as improved and three cured during the year; but the committee fail to discover how improvement or cures can be effected with the facilities here offered. Eight of the paupers are idiots; five males, three females. There is one deaf and dumb.

DUTCHESS COUNTY HOUSE.

Is constructed of wood, connected is a farm of one hundred and seven acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$1,631.00. The basements are occupied both for cells and lodging rooms. There are twenty-five rooms or wards, warmed by stoves but destitute of ventilation. The number of inmates was two hundred and forty; one hundred males and one hundred and forty females. Of these two-thirds are foreigners, one-third are native born, and sixty-one under sixteen years of age. The sexes are kept separate. They are under a single keeper. On an average about eight paupers are placed in a single room, in the largest thirty to forty. The average number of inmates is two hundred and twenty, supported at a weekly cost of ninety-five cents each. The paupers who are able are employed on the farm and about

the house. The supervisors have visited the house once during the year. It is supplied with Bibles and a Sunday school, and religious worship is regularly conducted. A school is taught in the building during the whole year. The superintendents furnish supplies; the diet is plain and wholesome. A physician is employed by the year. During the last year forty-nine deaths have occurred.

Of the inmates twenty-seven are lunatics, ten males and seventeen females. All are paupers. Twenty have been admitted within the year. They receive no special attendance. Two lunatics are confined in cells and chained to the floor, one is placed in a straight-jacket. The only classification consists in placing the violent in cells and others in rooms. The superintendent exercises the power of discharge. Five of the inmates are idiots, two males and three females. There are four blind. There is a pest house connected with the establishment.

The lunatics sometimes escape but they are always advertized or followed and secured. The physician of the house states, that during the three years he has been in charge nine lunatics have been cured and thirteen improved.

ERIE COUNTY HOUSE,

Is located within the limits of the city of Buffalo, but about six miles from the port, in a northerly direction. There are two buildings, one designed for use as the poor house proper, and the other for accommodation of the insane. They are constructed of limestone, quarried on the farm. The main structure is sixty-five feet front, octagonal in shape, with wings extending 225 feet. Attached is a farm of 153 acres, yielding a revenue of \$2,700. The basements of the building are occupied only for domestic purposes. In the house are thirty-four rooms, or wards, occupied by the paupers, well warmed by stoves and partially ventilated. In some apartments as many as thirty are lodged. The number of inmates was 225, 150 males and 75 females. Of these eleven-twelfths are reported as of foreign birth. There is a partial separation of the sexes during the day, and a complete one at night. There are six keepers, three males and three females. The average number of inmates is 300, supported at a weekly cost of \$1.00 each. The paupers who are able are employed on the farm and about the house. The house has been inspected twice during the past year by the supervisors. It is supplied

with Bibles, but no provision is made for religious instruction. For the instruction of the young a teacher is employed the whole year. The school averages forty-five children. On arriving at the age of sixteen years they are bound out by the superintendents of the poor. There are now at the house, below that age, seventy-five children. The superintendents prescribe rules regulating their government and system of diet, and furnish supplies which consist of plain, wholesome food. For medical attendance a physician is employed at a salary of \$400, who visits the house twice each week. A student remains at the house and is in constant attendance. No arrangements are had for bathing. During the year there have occurred in the house thirty-four births and eighty-three deaths. No contagious diseases have prevailed. There is a pest-house connected with the establishment. Of the inmates seventy-one are lunatics, twenty-six males and forty-five females. All but four of these are paupers. Twelve of these lunatics have been treated at the Utica Asylum. Forty have been admitted within the year.

Apart from the main building has been erected one of limestone, sixty by thirty feet, two stories in height, devoted to the insane. Attached are ample yards for their use, and special attendants are provided. In the asylum are seventy-two cells opening on four halls. The structure seems well fitted for its designed purpose. Of the lunatics five only are of native birth. But *one* is constantly confined; the rest spend the day in the halls and yards, and at night are placed in separate cells. As a means of restraint they are often confined in a chair, and sometimes shackles and hand-cuffs are used. Six within the year have been improved and five recovered. They receive only such medical attendance as is provided for the other paupers. They receive their discharge from the superintendents, who are guided by the advice of the physician. This asylum is commodious, cleanly and well kept. The insane receive good care and are classified according to their different stages of insanity.

In the poor house are eleven idiots, four males and seven females; three are under sixteen years of age; there are also three blind. It is estimated by the keeper that three-fourths of the paupers are brought here as the result of intemperate habits. Two years since the cholera visited the house and large numbers of the paupers were carried off. There was then no sewerage about the premises; the house was an old structure, and there

were large and offensive accumulations of filth. Since that time all this has been remedied. The old house was burned down shortly after, and the present one, erected in its place, was completed only during the last year. This is kept in a clean and orderly condition.

ESSEX COUNTY HOUSE,

Is located between Essex and Elizabethtown, about six miles from the former place. The building is a wooden one, two stories high, without basements, attached is a farm of 100 acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$1200.00. In the house are nineteen rooms or wards warmed by stoves, but destitute of means of ventilation. They are occupied by, from one to twelve paupers. The average number of inmates is sixty-seven, the present number sixty-five, thirty-two males and thirty-three females, twenty are foreign born and forty-five native born. Ten are under sixteen years of age. The sexes mingle during the day, but are separated at night. Two keepers care for the paupers, one male and a female. The paupers are employed on the farm and about the house. They are furnished with a plain wholesome diet under the direction of the superintendents of the poor, no person being allowed to contract for its supply. The average weekly cost of this support is sixty-two cents each. There is preaching in the house each week, and it is well supplied with bibles. For the instruction of the young, a school is taught in the house during the whole year. At the age of sixteen years the children are bound out to service by the superintendents. For medical attendance, a physician is employed at a salary of \$50 per annum, who visits the house once each week and oftener when called. For bathing a shower bath is provided. During the year have occurred three births and six deaths.

During this time the house has not been inspected by the supervisors.

Of the inmates twelve are lunatics, six male and six female, all are paupers. None are confined, and they have no medical or other special attendance. They are placed in cells at night, but are subject to no mechanical restraint. Three have been cured during the last year, and during that time three admitted. The construction of the house is not such as to allow of their classification. The superintendents alone possess the power of discharge. Application has been made to the State asylum for admission of a pauper and refused.

Three paupers are idiots, all females and all over twenty years of age. There are two blind. There is here no resort to corporal punishment. They have no pest house.

Seven-eighths of the paupers are reduced to their present condition through intemperance.

This house though an old one and unfit for its present use, is kept extremely well and with great neatness and order. The paupers are cleanly and well dressed, and appear happy and satisfied with their lot. For the facilities furnished, the committee pronounce it one of the best kept houses in the State. Much credit is due the keepers.

FRANKLIN COUNTY HOUSE

Is located about two miles from the village of Malone. The building is of wood, poorly constructed, and illy fitted for its present uses. It was originally a farm house, and in size 80x24 feet, two stories high.

There is attached a farm of 110 acres, yielding a revenue of \$1,500.

The basements of the building are occupied for domestic purposes only. In the house are eighteen rooms or wards, well warmed by stoves, but without ventilation. From one to eight paupers are placed in a single room.

The number of inmates was thirty-eight, fifteen males and twenty three females. Of these twenty-eight are foreign, ten native born; nine are under sixteen years of age. The sexes are separated at night, but mingle together during the day. The average number of inmates is forty-eight, supported at an expense of thirty-one cents per week each, exclusive of the products of the farm. The paupers are employed, the men on the farm, the women about the house. It has been visited once during the year by the board of supervisors. They regulate the government of the house and the system of diet. The food of the paupers is of a plain and wholesome quality. The house is supplied with Bibles, but there is no regular religious instruction. A teacher of the common English branches was employed in the house for three months during last winter, but the children usually attend the district school.

A physician is employed by the year at \$28, and comes only when called. There are no facilities for bathing. One birth and two deaths have occurred during the last year. No contagious diseases have raged.

Of the inmates seven are lunatics, three males and four females, all paupers, none are reported improved or cured. But one is constantly confined, and he in a cell. They are restrained by confinement, and sometimes handcuffs, shackles, and the straight jacket are used. Two have been admitted within the year. They receive no medical or other attendance, nor does the house permit classification. The superintendents usually discharge the insane; sometimes the power is exercised by the keeper. Two of the paupers are blind, four idiots—two male, two female.

The keeper reports nine-tenths of the paupers as here by reason of intemperance and its effects.

There is here a poor cripple, almost idiotic, whose limbs are drawn up and under him in strange contortions, and his tongue paralyzed by the disease. He can wear no garments but a loose shirt.

There is also a girl of twenty years a complete idiot, the offspring of a father and daughter. The unnatural parents were committed to prison, and the child sent to this house.

The hospital department of the house is wretched, and the nursing and medical attendance inadequate. The *general* appearance of the establishment however is good, and the rooms are particularly neat and clean.

FULTON COUNTY HOUSE.

This is a wooden building thirty by one hundred feet, two stories high, recently constructed and adjoining an old dwelling house formerly used for this purpose. Connected is a farm of ninety-four acres, yielding a revenue of \$200.00.

The building furnishing eleven rooms and wards for the use of paupers, is warmed by stoves, but destitute of all means of ventilation. Sometimes ten persons are placed in a single room. The present number of inmates is thirty; twenty males, ten females. Of these, five are foreign born, twenty-five native born. Four are children under sixteen years of age. The sexes are

separated only at night. They are under the care of a single keeper and his wife. The usual system of registration is kept. The average number of inmates is fifty. They are supported by contract at an expense to the county of \$1.25 each per week, beside the avails of the farm. *The keeper who has this contract, is also one of the superintendents of the poor*, and beside the contract price is allowed such labor as he can obtain from the paupers on the farm. Under this system they receive a diet of potatoes, meal, rice, beef, pork, &c.

The house has been inspected by the supervisors once during the year. It is supplied with Bibles, and occasional preaching is afforded. Children are sent to the common school of the district, in which the house is located. A physician is employed by the year. During the year there has been in the house three births and six deaths. The scarlet fever has prevailed among them.

Of the inmates five are lunatics; all females and all paupers. These are not confined or in any way restrained. In one case corporeal punishment was resorted to as a means of discipline. One has recovered, and one improved. The latter for two years before being brought to this house was confined in chains. Since coming to the house she has been *unconstrained* and is now slowly recovering. Four have been admitted since January last. They receive no particular medical attendance, and the construction of the house is such as only partially to allow of their classification. One lunatic escaped and is now in the custody of friends. There is one blind. Intemperance brings here one-fourth of the inmates.

GENESEE COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

Located in the town of Bethany, consists of a single main building attached to which is a wing designed and used for the accommodation of the insane. The main structure is of brick, thirty by forty feet, the addition of stone, forty by thirty feet. Connected is a farm of 133 acres, yielding a revenue of \$1,300.00. There are no basements. There is no ventilation; the main building is warmed by stoves, the asylum by a furnace.

The number of inmates was seventy-five, forty-five males, thirty females; of these twenty-five are foreign born, fifty native, embracing fifteen children under sixteen years of age. The sexes are separated during the night but mingle together during the day. They are under four keepers, two males, two females. In

the house are thirty rooms or wards, ten of which are occupied by the insane. In those occupied by the paupers ten persons are sometimes placed, in the asylum, but one.

The average number of inmates is ninety, supported at a weekly cost of seventy-two cents each, in addition to the products of the farm. Able bodied men among the paupers are employed on the farm, the women about the house. The house has been visited once during the year by the board of supervisors. It is supplied with Bibles and in the summer a Sunday school is sustained with occasional religious service. For about seven months in the year a common school is taught in the house. The superintendents of the poor in conjunction with the supervisors, procure supplies for the house and prescribe rules regulating the diet. At suitable ages the children are bound out by the superintendents. A physician is employed by the year. During the past year there have been two births and seventeen deaths. A shower bath and tub is provided for bathing. There is no pest house. Of the inmates twenty are lunatics, seven males and thirteen females. Five of these are received from other counties. Fifteen are paupers. Five lunatics have been admitted during the year. They are under the care of the keeper assisted by two attendants, and receive medical assistance only from the house physician. But a single one is confined and he by a chain in his room. The rest are restrained in separate rooms at night, though mostly at liberty during the day. Two have been cured during the past year, and one-fourth are considered improved. The construction of the house is such as to permit their classification. The power of discharge is exercised only by the superintendent. The lunatic asylum has been erected about ten years. Since its erection the condition of the insane is materially improved. Classification is allowed, ventilation is in a measure, though not sufficiently, introduced, and the rooms are well warmed.

The accommodations are so ample that the superintendents receive and provide for the insane poor of adjoining counties, at a charge to those counties of the actual expense of their support. It is believed by the management, that of the new cases committed here as many are cured as at other asylums. Of the paupers about ten are idiotic, four males and six females. One blind. About one-third of the paupers are reduced to their present condition through intemperance.

GREENE COUNTY HOUSE.

The building is of wood, in size equal to two hundred feet in length. Connected is a farm of one hundred and thirty acres, yielding a revenue of \$800 to \$900. In the building are twenty rooms or wards, warmed by stoves, but destitute of ventilation.

The number of inmates was eighty-eight; forty-four males and forty-four females. Of these, forty are foreign and forty-eight native born. Nineteen are under sixteen years of age. The sexes are separated at night. The keeper has no assistants.

The average number of inmates is one hundred and thirty, supported at an average weekly expense of seventy-five cents each. The able bodied paupers are employed on the farm and about the house. A committee from the board of supervisors has visited the house once during the year. It is supplied with Bibles, but no provision is made for other religious instruction. A common school is taught in the house during most of the year. The superintendents of the poor furnish supplies, regulate the system of diet, bind out the children and exercise the power of discharging lunatics. The fare of the paupers consists of meat, fish, vegetables, milk, and tea and coffee. A physician is employed by the year, who visits the house when his services are needed. During the past year have occurred four births and thirteen deaths. They have no pest house.

Of the inmates eleven are lunatics—six males and five females. All are paupers. But one has been admitted within the year. Their only attendance consists in the care bestowed by a male pauper on both sexes. Six are confined in cells, five of them are in chains, including two women. They are restrained by confinement, and by wearing chains about their legs and arms. Some are chained to the wall. While visiting the house the committee observed two men and one woman taken from their cells to the yard for air; there they were all chained to the fence, within a few feet of each other. Those confined in cells are without air except from the small hole in the door. They are in a wretched state. *None* are cured or improved, a result certainly to be expected from their present treatment.

In the house are nine idiots—five males and four females, none under sixteen years of age.

There are two blind and one deaf and dumb.

It is estimated that three-fourths, at least, of the paupers are made such by their intemperate habits.

This whole house is most illy constructed, without ventilation and with low ceilings. As a certain consequence the air is most impure.

HERKIMER COUNTY HOUSE.

This establishment consists of two stone buildings, thirty by forty-six feet each, two stories in height, and an asylum building including a school house, built of wood, in size sixty-eight by twenty-four feet, and two stories in height connected is a farm of sixty five acres, yielding a net revenue, the past year of \$739. The basements are occupied for culinary purposes, except one which is mostly above ground and occupied by old and decrepit persons. In the house are seventeen rooms and twenty cells warmed by stoves, but with no means of ventilation; the ceilings however are quite high. The number of inmates was seventy-six, fifty males and twenty-six females. Of these one half are foreign born and eleven under sixteen years of age. The sexes are entirely separated at night and partially during the day. They are under charge of a keeper who employs three assistants, two males and one female.

The average number of inmates is 130, supported at an average weekly expense of \$1.10 each, including the products of the farm. The paupers are employed on the farm and about the house, according to their ability. An inspector appointed by the board of supervisors, visits the house once a month. It is supplied with Bibles, but no other provision is made for religious instruction. For six or seven months a common school is taught in the house. The keeper is superintendent of the poor and exercises his own discretion in the government of the house and in furnishing of supplies. A physician is employed at an annual salary of from \$200 to \$250, who visit the house three times per week and oftener if called. During the year four births and seven deaths have occurred in the house. No contagious disease has prevailed.

Of the inmates seventeen are lunatics, twelve males and five females, all are paupers. They have two attendants but no particular medical care. Three or four have been admitted within the year, three are confined in cells and others placed in rooms

and allowed to exercise in a yard. During the year one person has recovered. The construction of the house allows of a partial classification of the insane.

Eight of the inmates are idiots, four male and four female, one girl is only eleven years of age. There is one blind. No corporal punishment is administered at the house.

Three-fourths of the paupers are made such by intemperance. This house is evidently in charge of a keeper, whose heart is in the right place, and who labors to cheer and sustain the broken in body and spirit of those who may by misfortune become the recipients of public charity in this county.

JEFFERSON COUNTY HOUSE,

Is located near Watertown; it is a large, substantial, well-built building of limestone, in size one hundred by thirty-six feet, and three stories in height beside basements. The basements are mostly above ground. Attached is a farm of one hundred and seven acres, yielding a revenue of \$1500.00. In the building are about forty rooms or wards occupied by the paupers. These are warmed mainly by furnaces, and are kept comfortable in winter, but are destitute of all means of ventilation. The number of inmates was one hundred and twenty-five, the sexes about equally divided, and one half native and one half foreign born. Fifteen are children under sixteen years of age. From two to ten are placed in each room. The sexes are separated at night but mingle during the day. All are now in the charge of a single keeper. The average number of inmates is one hundred and fifty, supported at a weekly charge of seventy five cents. As usual, the males who are able to labor are employed on the farm and the females in domestic affairs. Once in two months a committee from the board of supervisors visit and inspect the house, the good result of which is evidenced in the superior appointments and clealiness of the establishment. It is supplied with Bibles, but no provision is made for other religious instruction. A teacher is employed who teaches the common branches of an English education, in the building, during the whole year. The keeper furnishes supplies of food, and together with the superintendant imposes rules for the government of the paupers, and regulate their system of diet. Their fare is of plain, wholesome food. The keeper provides medical attendance as the wants of the paupers demand. No facilities exist for bathing, except in the apartment designed

especially for lunatics. During the last year there has been ten births, and thirteen deaths.

Of the inmates, thirty-one are lunatics; thirteen males, eighteen females. Twenty-nine of these are paupers; the remaining two pay \$1.50 and \$2.00 per week respectively. One is from St. Lawrence county and is supported by that county. For the accommodation of lunatics the county has recently erected an asylum in connection with the county house. The building is eighty by twenty-eight feet, two stories beside basements, and these are mostly above ground. There are twenty-one sleeping apartments in the two upper stories opening into large halls or parlors, where the patients remain usually during the day. Basements are occupied for domestic purposes, except four cells or sleeping apartments for the more violent insane. There is in the building a good bath room for the use of patients, and a plentiful supply of water. Patients are received from adjoining counties at a charge of \$2.00 per week. During the past year two have been discharged as cured. All are confined in separate rooms at night. But one is subject to constant confinement. The insane have one attendant, a female, beside assistance from the paupers. The more violent are restrained by confinement and sometimes the straight jacket is used. Ten have been admitted during the past year. *They receive particular medical attendance from the house physician*, who has the general charge of the asylum. Its construction is such as to allow classification of the insane. The superintendant, keeper and physician jointly exercise the power of discharge. No application has been made to the State asylum to receive patients during the last year, the county, with its present accommodations, preferring to assume themselves the care of their poor insane.

Much credit is due Mr. Ely, of Watertown, for his efficiency in securing this valuable and commodious erection for the insane poor of his county. Their improved condition and healthful appearance testify to its beneficial results.

Of the paupers eight are idiots; two males, six females. There are two deaf and dumb; three blind.

Corporeal punishment is sometimes administered both in cases of *adults* and children.

Intemperance brings to this house three-fourths of its inmates.

KINGS COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

The several buildings embraced in the alms house establishment in this county are located just outside the limits of the city of Brooklyn, some three or four miles from the East river.

Among the more important buildings may be mentioned :

1st. The alms house proper, built of brick, 50x250 feet, three stories high above the basement.

2d. A hospital building, 48x254 feet, four stories.

3d. A nursery, 50x200 feet, three stories.

4th. A lunatic asylum 260 feet long, wings 45 feet, and the centre 80 feet wide, four stories high.

Connected with the alms house is a farm of seventy acres, owned by the county; also forty acres held by lease. This land is worked mainly by pauper labor, and yields an annual revenue of \$3,515.

The basements of these several buildings are used for domestic purposes. Furnaces and stoves are employed for heating the apartments. The importance of ventilation is acknowledged by an abortive attempt to secure it. The lunatic asylum is the only building essentially benefited, and even there it is by no means what the necessities of the case require. 1,365 inmates were found in the establishment as follows :

Alms house proper,	380
Nursery,	350
Hospital,	430
Lunatic asylum,	205

Of these 674 are males and 691 females; 870 are foreign, and 495 native born, including 424 children under sixteen years of age.

The supervision and management of the alms house is under the care of one keeper, aided by three male and four female assistants. A complete separation of the sexes is preserved at all times.

The food furnished appeared to be of good quality, and in sufficient variety and quantity, consisting of meats, fish, milk, and the various vegetable products of the farm. The average num-

ber of inmates during the year is 1,800. The number being much the largest during the cold season. All who are able are required to labor about the house or on the farm. Children upon reaching twelve years of age are bound out by the superintendent.

The establishment has been visited once during the year by the board of supervisors. By the kindness and efforts of benevolent individuals, preaching is enjoyed every Sabbath, both in the alms house and in the lunatic asylum, also a Sabbath school is maintained. The house is supplied with Bibles. A few cases of yellow fever, small pox and scarlatina have been received and placed securely in the pest house during the year; but these diseases have in no case extended to the resident inmates.

The number of deaths during the year is 342. The number of births 142.

A physician is employed at a salary of \$200 to prescribe for and treat those in the alms house building. The hospital is in charge of a resident physician, aided by four assistants.

There is also a resident physician in the lunatic asylum.

Of the inmates five aged ones are blind.

The only form of punishment practiced is solitary confinement. It is estimated that two-thirds of all the inmates are reduced to the necessity of receiving public charity consequent upon habits of inebriation. A school is maintained in the nursery department through the year, with an average attendance of two hundred scholars, all under the care and instruction of a single teacher, who, of course, can do little more than exercise a supervisory control.

There are a number of other wards in the same building in which the smaller children are gathered and classified according to their respective ages, and in charge of attendants whose mission it is to minister to the constant and varied wants of these little ones, and it was gratifying to your committee to observe the care and interest that were in various ways manifested in their behalf. In the nursery hospital there were twenty-five cases mostly opthalmia, under the care of the hospital physician.

The hospital building possesses ample accommodations, judiciously arranged to meet the wants of the inmates of such an establishment. Though sadly deficient in ventilation, this defect is partially atoned for by spacious corridors that surround the building, at each story, arranged so as to be closed or opened according to circumstances.

The lunatic asylum is a fine edifice, very conveniently arranged in its construction, and better ventilated than either of the other buildings, and is capable of properly accommodating 150 patients, but containing 205 at the time of the committee's visit. During the year, 145 new cases have been admitted (one eight and one four years of age). Ninety-three patients have been cured and discharged, and sixteen more have been materially improved, which result is the best eulogium that the physician and managers can receive, county asylum though it be.

The building contains ten halls, five appropriated to the use of the males and five for the females. The patients are classified according to the nature and stage of their respective maladies, and are constantly under the watchful eye of attendants of whom there are twenty—ten males and ten females. Of the lunatics, seventy-nine are males, and 126 females.

No mechanical restraints have been imposed upon any of the patients for the last year, during which time it has been under the control of the present physician, and only one is confined in his room. The lunatics freely mingle together in the halls or in the yards provided for them, in which to take air and exercise. The committee were informed that one year previous, under a different administration, from forty to fifty of the inmates were constantly confined to their rooms, and twenty more subjected to mechanical restraints of different kinds, of which number five were made cripples, and three of them permanently so for life from that cause in the old asylum, and that quite a number exhibited upon their person, marks of violence received after their admission into the asylum. A different policy now prevails. The resident physician observed that he considers "kindness" more potent than chains.

Since the above was in type, a letter has been received from the resident physician of Kings county lunatic asylum, stating the "corporal punishment," above alluded to, "was inflicted by the attendants, as I have been informed, unknown to the superintendant."

LEWIS COUNTY HOUSE.

This building is built of stone, forty by sixty feet in height, two stories above the basement, and has been erected for nine years.

The basements are occupied for culinary purposes, and also contain two dark cells for offenders and the insane. Connected with the house is a farm of fifty-nine acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$600. The building contains eleven rooms, or wards, and is heated by furnaces. It is partially ventilated by registers in some of the windows. The number of inmates is fifty, thirty males and twenty females. Of these three-fourths are foreign born. Of the inmates there are twelve under sixteen years of age. The sexes are separated at night and partially during the day. They are under one keeper. Sometimes as many as twelve paupers are placed in one room. The average number of inmates is ninety-three, supported at a weekly expense of ninety-seven cents each, aside from the products of the farm. The paupers are employed on the farm, so far as able, and in domestic matters and the manufacture of clothing for the house. The supervisors have visited and inspected the house twice during the past year. It is supplied with Bibles and a Sabbath school is sustained. No other religious instruction is afforded. During four months of the year a common school is taught. The superintendents of the poor furnish supplies and impose rules for the government of the house and regulations for the system of diet. The food furnished is good and wholesome, *equal in quality to that which a majority of the tax payers themselves eat*. A physician, who visits the house four or five times each week, and oftener if necessary, is employed at a salary of \$200. There are no facilities for bathing.

During the last year one birth has occurred in the house and nine deaths. No contagious disease has visited the house. The lunatics number only four, two males and two females. All are paupers, and, as a remarkable fact, one of them was found *lying on a feather bed*. Two have been admitted within the year. They have no particular medical or other attendance, and none are confined or in any way restrained. There is no case of improvement or cure. The superintendents of the poor alone exercise the power of discharge.

There is in the house one idiot, a female about twenty-two years of age; also one blind and one deaf and dumb. The house can be kept comfortable in winter. The proportion of pauperism here caused by intemperance is estimated at one-half. The house appeared to be very well kept.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HOUSE.

Located near Geneseo, is constructed of brick, three stories in height, in size 108 by 53 feet, including two wings. Attached is a farm of 118 acres, yielding a revenue of \$2,000.00. The basements are occupied by male lunatics to a limited extent. The number of inmates was seventy-five, the sexes equally divided; of these forty were of foreign birth, thirty-five native born. Twenty-five were children, under sixteen years of age. The sexes are kept separate at all times. They are under two keepers, a male and female. Five or six paupers are sometimes placed in one room. The rooms are warmed by stoves and a furnace, no means of ventilation are furnished. The rooms and wards number seventy-five. The average number of inmates is 107, supported at a weekly expense of seventy-four and a half cents, inclusive of the products of the farm. The stronger males labor on the farm and the women about the house. Once during the past year the house has been inspected by the supervisors. It is supplied with Bibles, but there are no regular arrangements for religious services or instruction.

A teacher is employed in the house nine or ten months of the year, to instruct the children in the common English branches. The keeper purchases supplies and furnishes the house, himself imposing rules regulating the government and system of diet. The superintendents bind out the children on their arrival at suitable ages. The fare of paupers consists of plain wholesome food. A physician is employed by the year who visits the house whenever called. He is paid a salary of eighty dollars per annum. No facilities exist for bathing. During the past year there have occurred four births and seventeen deaths. The keeper reports that heretofore illicit intercourse between the sexes has to some extent existed.

There is no pest house, but during the past year the paupers have suffered from no pestilential or contagious diseases. Fourteen of the inmates are lunatics, five males and nine females. Of these all are paupers. Five have been admitted within the year. The males are under the general care of the keeper, the females have an especial female attendant. A single one is confined in a cell. This is the only means of restraint in use, except in extreme cases, when resort is had to handcuffs. Three during the year have been considerably improved. The insane receive

no particular medical attendance, nor is the house so constructed as to allow a proper classification of the patients. The power of discharge is exercised alone by the superintendents. Four of those, now inmates of this house, have spent some time at the State Asylum, and have been discharged as cases of hopeless lunacy.

Three of the paupers are idiots, two males and one female, one under ten years. There is one deaf and dumb and two blind. Lunatics sometimes escape but have always been recovered. The keeper reports three-quarters of the paupers as brought here by intemperate habits.

The house has been constructed six years, and is much better than an average of the buildings used for this purpose. The rooms are built around and open upon ranges or galleries, passing round an open court or hall, which aids materially in the ventilation of the building.

MADISON COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

Consists of three stone buildings, each two stories in height, the first used for sane and healthy paupers, one hundred and fifteen by forty feet, the second is used as an hospital, thirty-eight by thirty-two feet, the third as a lunatic asylum, thirty-eight by thirty-two. In the poor house are nineteen, in the hospital eleven, in the asylum seventeen. Attached is a farm of one hundred and thirty five acres, thirty acres wood land, yielding an annual revenue estimated at \$1500.00. The basements are used for domestic purposes. The buildings are warmed by stoves and about *one-third of the rooms are ventilated*. The number of inmates was one hundred and eight, seventy-two males and thirty-six females, of these three-fourths are of foreign birth. Among the paupers are thirty children. The sexes are separated at night, but mingle during the day, they are cared for by the keeper and his wife. Those in a single room range from one to thirty-five. The average number of inmates is one hundred and thirty, supported at a weekly cost of fifty-six cents each, exclusive of the products of the farm. The males so far as able labor on the farm and the women in domestic avocations. The house has been inspected by the supervisors once during the year. It is supplied with Bibles, but no religious instruction is furnished. A teacher is hired and school taught during the whole year, the average number of scholars is seventeen. The superintendents of

the poor furnish the house with supplies and impose rules for government and regulate the system of diet. They bind out children on their arrival at proper ages and exercise the power to discharge lunatics. The present keeper is a superintendent. The fare of the paupers consists of beef, pork, bread, &c., plain wholesome food. A physician is employed by the year at a salary of \$100, who visits the house whenever called. There are no arrangements for bathing, but usually a plentiful supply of water furnished. During the year one birth and five deaths have occurred. Of the inmates fourteen are lunatics, five males and nine females, all but one are paupers. Three have been admitted within the year. They are under the care of a single attendant and receive no medical attendance. Nine are confined in cells, and three of these are so violent that the attendants are unable to keep them clothed, they are frequently tied or chained to the floor. During the past year *none* have been either improved or cured. The construction of the house allows classification to a fair extent.

Seven of the paupers are idiots, four males and three females, four of these are under fifteen years of age.

The house can be kept comfortably warmed in winter. Intemperance brings to this house three-fourths of its inmates. This establishment in the ampleness of its accommodations and in the cleanly and orderly manner in which it is kept, ranks among the best poor houses in the State.

MONROE COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

These buildings located near Rochester are of large size, four stories in height, and three in number; two are of brick, one of wood, connected with a farm of one hundred and thirty-four acres yielding an annual revenue of \$3,500.00. There are two basements, occupied for cells for the insane, and for sitting and sleeping rooms. The buildings have no ventilation and are heated principally by stoves. The number of inmates was two hundred and eighty, the sexes being equally divided; of these but forty are native born. Seventy-five are children under sixteen years of age. There is a complete separation of the sexes. They are under one keeper who employs but a single assistant, who in turn is also assisted by the able paupers. On an average seven or eight paupers are placed in one room, though sometimes as many as one hundred are placed in a single apartment. The average num-

ber of inmates is three hundred and sixty, supported at a weekly cost of sixty-eight cents. The males who are able are employed on the farm and the women in domestic affairs. The house has been visited once during the year by the supervisors, and the superintendents of poor visit the house each week. The house is supplied with Bibles and there is preaching each sabbath conducted by the students of Rochester University. Sabbath school instruction is also furnished by them. A common school is in session at the house during the whole year. The superintendents through the keeper, furnish supplies and prescribe rules regulating the diet, they also bind out the children at suitable ages. The fare of the paupers consists of meat, bread, and vegetables; plain but nutritious food. The keeper himself is a physician and furnishes the medical attendance required by the paupers. During the year there has been twenty-three births and forty-six deaths. There is here both a fever and a pest house apart from the main buildings. Among the paupers are five blind and two deaf and dumb persons. There are furnished no facilities for bathing, an omission of a very important sanitary measure. During last spring the measles were prevalent in the house.

Of the inmates twenty-eight are lunatics; thirteen males and fifteen females; all are paupers. Forty-two lunatics have been admitted during the year, and about that number are received each year. Ten women and eight men are confined in cells. During the past year six have been materially improved. As a means of restraint handcuffs are sometimes used. Their attendance consists in a general oversight from the keeper, assisted by two paupers, one male and a female. The construction of the house is not such as to allow classification of the insane and hence recourse to cell confinement is had, where its effects are decidedly injurious. Lunatics at this house, with its present facilities can by no means receive proper treatment. They are discharged by town overseers, by superintendents of the poor, and by the magistrate or person committing them to the house. There are now awaiting, two lunatics for reception in the State Asylum, where admission is now denied.

Eight of the paupers are idiots; four male and four female. The present keeper, Dr. James, has occupied his position for six years, and gives the opinion founded on observation as keeper and medical attendant, during that time, that fifteen-sixteenths of the paupers are brought here by *intemperance*.

For so large an establishment, with so imperfect and faulty accommodations, it seems well-conducted.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is an old dilapidated two-story structure, in a rectangular form, 90x30 feet, on a side enclosing an open space, in the centre of which a fountain of water in ample quantity is constantly playing, and the idea of a bath is foreign to the establishment. The house is attempted to be warmed by stoves, but cannot be made comfortable in cold weather. Connected with the house is a farm of 150 acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$1,000. For two years preceding the present the paupers were supported by contract, the contractor receiving the use of the house and farm, and 62 cents for permanent and 65 cents for transient paupers per week, and all moneys receivable from the Commissioners of Emigration, and it was stated, as a little singular, as well as a fact, that the contractor was much more successful in realizing money for supporting emigrant poor than the superintendents of the county have been. The present keeper has been in charge but a few months; he represented that the house was in an exceedingly filthy condition when he entered upon the duties of his office, and that he had already used some forty bushels of lime in whitewashing, and otherwise in order to make the house what it then was.

The house affords sixteen rooms and twelve cells for the use of paupers. The present number of inmates is seventy-six, and as many as eighteen are sometimes placed in one room. Of the whole number three-fourths are males and one-fourth females. Of these three-fourths are foreign and one-fourth native born, including eleven children. The keeper is assisted by his wife and the paupers in working the farm and providing for the family.

The sexes are not separated by day, and not entirely at night. There is no provision for religious instruction, nor is the house supplied with Bibles. A school is taught six months in the year for the children. The house has been inspected twice during the year by the board of supervisors. The fare of the paupers consists of good, plain, wholesome food. The supplies are purchased by the superintendent, or by his orders. He also, jointly with a committee of the board of supervisors, prescribes rules regulating the diet; he binds out the children, &c. The average number of inmates is 125. A physician is employed who visits

the house twice a week, for which he receives a salary of \$100 a year. Within six months there have been two births and five deaths. Thirteen of the inmates are lunatics, of these twelve are paupers—nine males and four females; three have been admitted in the last six months, and during the same time one has escaped that has not been recovered. The lunatics have a pauper attendant to wait upon them, but receive no special medical attention, seven are confined in cells, and one is *sometimes whipped, and he a cripple*. None have been cured nor improved.

Five of the paupers are idiots, two male three female. The forms of punishment are whipping, shutting them up in dark cells, ball and chain to the leg. Three-fourths of all the cases that come to this house come consequent upon habits of inebriation.

NIAGARA COUNTY POOR HOUSE,

Consists of a stone building seventy-five by forty feet, three stories; another thirty by forty feet, two stories; connected with a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$1,000. The basements are used for domestic purposes. There is no ventilation. It is heated by furnace and stoves. Shower bathing is practiced to a moderate extent. The number of inmates was seventy-eight—forty males and thirty-eight females; of these sixty-six were foreign and twelve native born, embracing forty children. The sexes are kept separate. They are under one keeper, who employs three assistants—two male and one female. On an average three paupers are placed in a room.

The average number of inmates is ninety-five, supported at a weekly cost of 50 cents, in addition to the products of the farm. The males who are able, work on the farm ten hours a day; the females are engaged in domestic matters. The house has been visited once during the year by the board of supervisors. It is also supplied with Bibles, and a Sabbath school is maintained during the summer. A teacher is employed most of the time to instruct the children, who also exercise a general and constant supervision and control over them, as to cleanliness, behavior, &c. The superintendents of the poor, through the keeper, procures the supplies, prescribes rules regulating the diet, binds out the children, and exercises the power of discharging lunatics. The fare of the paupers consists of plain wholesome food. A physician is employed to visit the house three times a week, at a

salary of \$250. Another physician is also employed, who gives special attention to lunatics. During the last year there have been five births and thirteen deaths.

The measles has prevailed among the children, three or four of whom died. This establishment is one of the few that has a pest house. Of the inmates nineteen are lunatics—six male and thirteen female—and all but three are paupers; of those three one is a man worth from \$6,000 to \$7,000, placed here by his friends because they were denied admission into the State Asylum; another, a lady worth still more, placed here by her friends, and a third, a girl, placed here by her father. Thirty lunatics have been admitted during the year. They are under the care of a young physician, assisted by a female attendant. *None* are confined unless at night, and only one restrained (a negro) by shackles to keep him from running away; he is constantly employed on the farm, and is an efficient hand, and seemed happy. During the year five have been *cured* and discharged, and two much improved. It will be observed that in this house, as in all others where any proper attention is bestowed upon the insane, happy results follow. Four of the inmates are idiots, all males, two boys 12, and two 16 years of age; two are blind.

The house is well kept, and by the results proves, that as a question of economy merely, it is less expensive to maintain a good poor house than it is a poor one. The only form of punishment employed is the shower bath. The keeper says, "*I know* intemperance brings one-third of the inmates here, and I should think more than two-thirds.

ONEIDA COUNTY HOUSE

Is located near the village of Rome. The building has been occupied as a poor house since 1829. Connected is a farm of 115 acres, of which about seventy are under cultivation. The house is heated by a furnace.

The present number of inmates is 150—males and females being about equally divided. The average number for the past year is 222. Thirty-seven deaths have occurred. At least three-fourths of all received are foreigners. During all seasons the able bodied men among the paupers are employed upon the farm. The sexes are kept separate. A physician is employed by the year to attend the sick, and frequently visits the house. It is supplied

with Bibles, and the inmates have the benefit of religious instruction. For the children an instructor is employed by the year. There is on the grounds a pest house, located about 100 rods from the main building. No contagious disease has visited the house during the present year.

The inmates sleep in dormitories, the largest room accommodates forty-four persons.

There are here four blind, two male and two female, and three idiots. Thirty-one of the inmates are lunatics, twenty males and eleven females. For their accommodation has been erected an asylum building, in which the sexes are separately confined with separate yards attached. A large share of these lunatics have heretofore been inmates of the State Institution, and returned as incurable. The keeper reports that one of the cases, a colored woman, has recovered her reason and been discharged from the house. They are confined in rooms, and restrained by chains when boisterous. The son of the keeper has charge of the insane, assisted by a female who is herself occasionally deranged.

The house is inspected each year by a committee appointed from the board of supervisors of the county.

Exclusive of farm products the cost of support of paupers has been for the last year about \$1.00 per capita.

ONONDAGA COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is located on Pompey Hill, some four miles from Syracuse. It is an establishment quite extensive, being made up of additions from time to time as the exigencies of the case have demanded. The main building is constructed of stone, three stories high. Connected with the house is a farm of thirty-four acres, the revenues of which was not ascertained, the keeper being absent from home. The house is warmed by furnaces and stoves. The rooms are not ventilated and some of them poorly lighted, nor was there any provision for bathing. The air in many of the apartments was oppressive, imparting that peculiar odor, that is experienced in a close, *vitiating* atmosphere not peculiar perhaps to poor houses, but not unfrequently found there, nor, could it be specially commended for its cleanliness.

The number of inmates was one hundred and fifty, seventy-five males and seventy-five female, one hundred and fifteen of whom

were foreign and thirty-five native born, including sixty children. The sexes are kept separate, in small rooms two persons are placed, in larger ones four, six, twelve and even twenty. The house is in charge of two keepers, both males, who are assisted by the paupers both in the house and upon the farm.

The superintendent of the poor purchases supplies for the house, prescribes rules regulating the diet and government of the paupers, binds out the children and dismisses lunatics when discharged. The average number of inmates is two hundred, the weekly cost of their support was not obtained on account of the absence of the keeper. A school is kept for instructing the children. The house is supplied with Bibles and religious services are held once in two weeks.

This house is visited once annually by the supervisors and by the superintendent of the poor every week. The food furnished was plain but appeared wholesome and good.

A physician is employed by the year, who visits the house every day. During the year there had been four births and eight deaths, from January to June. The number of lunatics was sixteen, eight males and eight females and all paupers.

The insane receive no special medical attention, and none have been cured, two are thought to be improved, four are constantly confined in cells, three males and one female. A male and female pauper are assigned by the keeper to wait upon the insane. One lunatic was in irons, the straight jacket is sometimes used.

The house admits of the classification of the insane. One of the paupers is an idiot, a male, one deaf and dumb, five blind, all aged. Corporeal punishment inflicted only upon children.

Two-thirds of the inmates rendered paupers consequent upon the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage.

ONTARIO COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is located in the vicinity of Canandaigua. The main building is ninety by forty-five feet, two stories in height; another twenty-eight by thirty feet, both of brick. Connected with the house is a farm of 212 acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$4,000. The basement is occupied for domestic purposes. It is warmed by

furnaces and stoves. No ventilation except in the insane department; the ceilings, however, are pretty well raised. No baths are provided but ample accommodations are furnished for washing. Seventeen rooms and twenty-one cells are appropriated to the use of the paupers. From two to twenty-six are placed in a single room. The number of inmates was 120, seventy males and fifty females, eighty of whom were foreign and forty native born, including thirty-five children. There is a complete separation of the sexes. The house is in charge of one keeper, who has an assistant, aided by the paupers in the house and on the farm. The supervisors have visited this house *twice* the past year. The supplies for the house are purchased by the superintendent, who also prescribes rules regulating the diet, binds out the children of suitable age, and jointly with the physician exercises the power of discharging lunatics. The average number of inmates is 136, supported at a weekly cost of fifty-seven cents each. The house is supplied with Bibles, and preaching is occasionally enjoyed during the summer. One of the most interesting features connected with this establishment is the *school house*, standing out from the main buildings in a large and beautiful front yard ornamented with trees. In this house a school is taught the year round. It was found clean and neat, and its walls decorated with maps, mottoes, &c.,—an inviting retreat. This school is supported from a fund given by a benevolent individual, the interest of which is to be perpetually applied to the education of these pauper children. The intent of the grantor seems to find a realization.

A physician is employed by the year at a salary of \$150. There have been four births and eighteen deaths during the year. Among the inmates are twenty-one lunatics, six males and fifteen females, and all paupers; five of these have been to the Utica Asylum and returned as incurable. Application has also been made for the admission of others which have been refused at Utica. Two have been admitted to this house this year, and two have recovered and four slightly improved. They are restrained by confinement in cells, and three are confined in cells constantly. The women are waited upon by a female attendant. The insane do not receive any special medical attention. This house admits of the classification of the insane; five are idiots, one male and four females; two are deaf and dumb, and one blind. Lunatics sometimes escape and are not always heard from. Two-

thirds of the whole number are brought here consequent upon habits of intemperance.

ORANGE COUNTY HOUSE.

Is a building constructed of stone, 100 by 40 feet, three stories in height, and is connected with a farm of 265 acres, yielding a revenue of \$2,000. The basements are occupied only for domestic purposes. There are about sixty rooms in the several buildings, warmed by a furnace and stoves but not at all ventilated. The number of inmates was 138, fifty males and eighty-eight females. Of these one-half are of foreign birth and forty are under sixteen years of age. Not over ten are placed in the largest rooms. The sexes are kept separated at night. There is but one keeper. The average number of inmates is 200, supported at a cost of \$1.04 per week each. As far as they are able the males labor on the farm and the women about the house. The supervisors have inspected the house once during the past year. It is supplied with Bibles and sometimes religious services are performed. A competent teacher is employed in the house during the entire year, to give instruction in the common English branches. The superintendents of the poor bind out the children on arriving at a suitable age, furnish supplies and discharge lunatics. The fare of the paupers is very good though plain. A physician is employed by the year who tends to the sick when his services are required. No facilities for bathing exist. Six births and twelve deaths have occurred during the past year. No contagious diseases have prevailed. This establishment has a good pest house.

Of the inmates sixteen are lunatics, eight males and eight females. All are paupers. Six have been received during the past year. Two are confined in cells and sometimes the more violent lunatics are restrained by handcuffs and even chained to the floor. During the year two have been cured and four materially improved. Two women attend the lunatics and the house physician prescribes for them when physically ill. A stone building 26 by 50 is attached to the main structure with twenty-two rooms, for the accommodation of lunatics. These rooms are about eight feet square, light airy and healthy, and the lunatics are here made comfortable. Ample yards are attached for exercise.

The school room is in the same building and is a good one. Two of the paupers are idiots, both males. Three are blind.

Three lunatics have escaped and not returned, during the past year. Intemperance furnishes this house with two-thirds of its inmates.

ORLEANS COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

This house is built of brick, forty by eighty feet, three stories high, connected with which is a farm of one hundred and seven acres, yielding, an annual revenue of \$721. The house is not ventilated. No provision for bathing except a shower bath. The basement, to a limited extent, is occupied by the paupers, but mostly for domestic purposes. It is warmed by stoves. The number of inmates was forty; twenty males and twenty females, of whom sixteen were foreign and twenty-four native born, including eight children. Twenty-six rooms are appropriated to the use of the paupers in which as many as eight are sometimes placed in a single room. This house is under the care of a keeper, aided by an assistant. The keeper is also superintendent of the poor, who purchases supplies for the house, prescribes rules regulating the diet, which are submitted to and have received the sanction of the county court. During the past year he has bound out sixteen children, leaving only one of suitable age to be bound out, in the house. The paupers labor in the house and on the farm to the extent of their ability. The average number supported is fifty-nine, at a weekly cost of \$1.15 each. The house is supplied with Bibles and religious services are maintained every Sabbath. The children of suitable age are sent to the district school. The supervisors have visited the house once this year.

A physician is employed by the year at a salary of \$100. There have been five births and three deaths the past year. Of the inmates seven are lunatics; two male and five female, and all paupers. Two have been received, and one recovered and has been discharged. Three of the lunatics are confined in a hall opening into a yard; one is restrained by wearing mittens and one muffs. They are looked after by a pauper attendant, but receive no special medical attention. There are two idiots, both females; and one deaf and dumb.

Four-fifths of the whole number come to want consequent upon habits of inebriation.

OSWEGO COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is located in the town of Mexico. It is an old structure, the main building twenty-five by sixty feet, of wood, two stories high,

with a brick addition twenty-five by twenty feet, with a farm of sixty acres attached, yielding an annual net revenue of \$300. The basement of the building is used for domestic purposes. There are nine rooms or wards appropriated to the use of paupers, and seven of these for lodging paupers, in each of which are placed from one to eight persons. Forty-seven inmates were found, being provided for. Twenty-three males and twenty-four females, three-fourths of whom were foreign, one-fourth native born, supported at a weekly expense of \$1.08 each. The average number provided for in this house is seventy-five, and all placed under the care of a single keeper, who also has the care and management of the farm, the male paupers assisting in out door work, and the females in domestic duties, according to their several ability.

In this establishment there is but very little separation of the sexes, either by day or night.

Of the inmates seven are under sixteen years of age. It is the practice to transfer the children, on reaching the age of six or eight years, to the orphan asylum in Oswego, at which institution they are instructed and carefully cared for. The asylum receiving \$1.25 each, per week, by resolution of the board of supervisors of the county at its last annual meeting. Previous to this no provision whatever existed for the instruction of the inmates, either religiously, or in the elements of a common English education. Nor has the house been visited by the board of supervisors during the *past year*, and the general appearance of the house and its surroundings would seem to countenance the idea, that it had not been visited by that honorable body for many years preceding.

The inmates are supplied with wholesome plain food, which, together with all other stores for the house is purchased by or under the direction of the county superintendent, who also imposes rules regulating the diet.

In this establishment there is no room separate and distinct from the other, known and used as a hospital, nor is there a pest house.

During the year there have been five deaths and three births. A physician is employed by the year to visit the house and prescribe for such as need medical attention, once a week, and as much oftener as his services may be required, for a salary of \$85.

There are no baths provided.

Eight of the inmates are lunatics—five male and three female, and all paupers; three have been admitted during the year, two have recovered, one improved and one escaped. They have no special attendants nor special medical attention.

Of the above number, two are *constantly* confined in cells, and one restrained by a straight jacket—hand-cuffs, are sometimes employed.

There is no yard or retreat provided for the insane, and although the keeper thought the house admitted of their classification, your committee can hardly comprehend how such a result could be attained.

Lunatics are discharged by the superintendent only, or by his directions. No lunatics have been sent to the State Lunatic Asylum, at Utica, nor has any application been made for their reception during the year.

Four of the inmates are idiots, three male and one female, all over twenty years of age. The house is heated by stoves, and can be made comfortable at all seasons. It has no ventilation, and the ceilings of the apartments are low. Seven-eighths brought to this house come consequent upon habits of inebriation.

This house is wholly inadequate, in any just sense, to meet, in proper measure, the varied wants and necessities of so large a family. Here are gathered the aged and the young, the sick, halt and lame, the vicious, perhaps, and the unfortunate, the *idiot*, the LUNATIC: seventy-five in all, as an average, to be accommodated in nine apartments, and all to be cared for by one man and his pauper assistants. From these nine rooms take the dining hall, the sick room, the two rooms in which lunatics are constantly confined, and five remain for occupancy by the remainder of the inmates of both sexes. Whether this is to remain as the gauge and standard of the philanthropy and christian civilization of the citizens of Oswego county is a question for them to answer. When the facts are fully understood by them your committee cannot, for a moment, doubt what their answer will be.

OTSEGO COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is located near Cooperstown, and consists of several buildings of stone, one 24x60 feet, one 24x90 feet, &c., furnishing twenty-

four cells or rooms for the insane, and fifteen for the other paupers. The insane departments are ventilated, the others are not, but without any provision for bathing. The farm connected consists of 153 acres, and yields an annual revenue of \$1,400. The number of inmates was eighty-six, forty-four males and forty-two females, of whom seventy-nine were native and seven foreign born, including sixteen children. The insane each occupy a small cell, the residue are placed from one to twelve in a single room. The sexes are partially separated by day, completely at night, and are all under the care of one keeper and his wife, who have charge of the family and the farm, assisted by the paupers. The keeper also purchases the supplies for the house. The superintendent provides and imposes rules regulating the diet, binds out the children when suitable places are found, and discharges the lunatics when cured. The house is supplied with Bibles, and religious services are held every Sabbath. The children are sent to the district school. A physician is employed, who attends when called upon, and receives one dollar for each visit. One birth the last year (illegitimate) and fifteen deaths. The average number supported in this house is ninety, fifty-four of whom have been brought here directly, and twenty-nine indirectly, from habits of inebriation.

Fifteen of the inmates are lunatics, five male and ten female, and all paupers; three have been received during the past year.

Four of the lunatics have been much improved; they have their liberty during the day, but are locked up at night. The only form of restraint is by locking in cells. The majority of the insane have been in this house from five to sixteen years. The construction of the house admits of the classification of the insane. They have no special attendants, and receive no special medical attention. Five of the inmates are idiots, two male and three female. The generally clean appearance of the house, and the order manifested everywhere, speak well for the sagacity of the superintendents in selecting a keeper.

PUTNAM COUNTY HOUSE.

Is a wooden building of two stories, in size eighty by thirty feet, connected is a farm of one hundred and ninety six acres, yielding a revenue of about \$600. The basements of the house are unoccupied. There are fourteen rooms or wards, occupied by the paupers and warmed by stoves and not at all ventilated. In some rooms are placed twenty persons, less in the smaller.

The number of inmates was thirty-seven, eighteen males and seventeen females, of these three are foreign and thirty-four native birth, thirteen are under sixteen years of age. The sexes are kept separate, they are under a single keeper who has charge of the house. The average number of inmates is fifty-two, supported at a weekly cost of forty-three cents each, all who are able work on the farm or about the house. The house has been visited by the supervisors, once during the past year. It is supplied with Bibles and there are occasional religious services on the Sabbath. For the instruction of the young a school is taught in the house during the whole year. The superintendents of the poor regulate the government of the house, furnish supplies, bind out the children and exercise the power of discharging lunatics. The fare of the paupers is the common one of meat, bread and vegetables. A physician is called when his services are needed. There are no facilities for bathing. Seven deaths have occurred during the year, no contagious disease has prevailed. This establishment has a pest house.

Of the inmates three are lunatics, one male and two females, all are paupers. They receive no special medical or other attendance. One has been chained in his cell for about three years, he is comparatively a young man and must prove a confirmed lunatic unless there be a speedy change in his treatment, he lies on dirty straw in a miserable dungeon, and his condition is worse than that of many beasts. The others are confined in cells. None are reported cured or improved during the past year. Two of the inmates are idiots, both females. There is one mute. Thirty-six of the fifty-two paupers are reduced to their present condition through intemperance.

JONES' INSTITUTE.

Is located in the town of Oyster Bay, Queens county. It is designed only for the accommodation of the poor of the towns of Oyster Bay and North Hempstead. The property is held by trustees under the will of Mr. Samuel Jones, by whom it was devised to these towns. There is also in their hands a fund the revenue of which is devoted toward its support. The remaining expenses are furnished by the two towns.

The buildings are of wood, old, irregular in form and size. Attached is a farm of sixty-three acres. There are no basements. In the building are ten rooms or wards, warmed by stoves

and not at all ventilated. Six paupers are placed together in small rooms and about twenty in larger ones. The present number of inmates was forty, nineteen males and twenty-one females. Of these two are foreign and thirty-eight native born. Twelve are under sixteen years of age. They are under the care of a single keeper. The sexes are kept separate. The average number of inmates is 127. The keeper was unable to state the cost of their support. The abler paupers are made to work on the farm and about the house. It is supplied with Bibles, but no other religious instruction is provided. The supplies are purchased as needed by the keeper. In the house are four idiots, one male and three females. There are three blind. A physician is employed by the year. During that period five births and sixteen deaths have occurred. There is no pest house. Lunatics are not admitted to the house, but are *said* to be boarded out in private families, under direction of the superintendent of the poor. More than five-sevenths of the paupers reach their present position through intemperance.

This house is very badly constructed and the air in the rooms is close and unhealthy. There is no school taught in the house, nor are the children sent to the district school although one is located near this house.

RENSSELAER COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is situated a short distance south-easterly from the city of Troy, and consists of a building 50 feet by 200, built of brick, two stories high. A farm of 152 acres is connected with the house, upon which the male paupers are employed, so far as they are able, and which yields a revenue of \$2.000 a year.

The house affords twenty-one large and fifteen small rooms for the use of paupers, which are heated by stoves, but entirely destitute of any means for ventilation. There is a small bathing establishment which, from appearance, seemed to have gone into disrepute. One hundred and thirty-three inmates were found in the house, sixty-seven males and sixty-six females, seven-eighths of whom are foreign and one-eighth native born, including fifty children under sixteen years of age.

The paupers in this county are let by contract. The contractor, Justin E. Gregory, who is also county superintendent, enjoys the free use of the county buildings and farm, and in addition

thereto receives one dollar a week for each inmate, whether old or young, together with such services as they may be able to render on the farm or in the house.

Mr. Maxon, the present keeper, placed there by the contractor, and who entered upon his duties within the present year, stated to your committee that when he took charge of the establishment he found three lunatic women in cells, who, he was informed, had been confined six months without having been let out. He further stated that, during the cold season, while thus confined, lying upon straw as their only bed, saturated with fluids, the litter of straw froze upon their limbs, and was removed only by thawing it off. As a result of this inhuman neglect two of them had been rendered cripples for life. He described the cells in which they were confined as being in a loathsome condition, and furnishing abundant evidence of the multiplied discomforts to which the unhappy inmates must, from the nature of the case, have been subjected. These cells are four and a half feet wide, seven feet deep and seven feet high, without ventilation, with a small hole cut in the top of the door to admit air and light,—to this should be added a poor quality and a small quantity of food. Mr. Maxon stated further, that when he entered upon the discharge of his duties he found a large quantity of provisions unfit for use, such that he refused to feed it to the paupers; and that, accordingly, he threw away three or four loads of spoiled meat and fish—the same in kind as the paupers had been fed upon for seven months previous. He further stated, that during this period the house was kept by a son of the contractor, who supplied the house with provisions, and that during his own time of service provisions had been sent to him for the use of the paupers, so utterly unfit and unwholesome that he had felt obliged to refuse them, and has sent them back.

A pauper by the name of Denis was called upon by Mr. Maxon the present keeper, who was instructed to answer such questions as might be propounded by the committee. Who in reply to questions put by the committee, stated: That the paupers had suffered very much from cold during the winter, owing to a deficiency in the supply of fuel, and for lack of clothing. They had suffered also for want of a sufficient supply of food and complained that it had not only been scanty in amount but unwholesome in quality, consisting of dry coarse brown bread and beef shanks, boiled and cold. The truth of which the committee could not doubt, if the fare then used, was an improvement upon what

it had been before. For the bread and the meat exhibited to the committee as the fare of the paupers, answered Denis' description so accurately that the committee, if they had not been informed to the contrary, would have supposed the paupers were being kept on the old bill of fare. It is only just to add that potatoes are said to be added to the present fare twice a day. In further confirmation of the above statements your committee saw at the Marshall Infirmary, a man who was brought from this poor house last winter, concerning whom the physician of the infirmary said, that on his reception "he was so reduced for want of food that it was some time before he was able to move about." The man himself stated that he could not eat the food at the poor house it was so offensive. The committee received information from other sources, all tending to establish the facts above set forth in relation to the diet of the paupers and in relation to the treatment of them.

It is *claimed* that there is a complete separation of the sexes—from twenty to twenty-five are sometimes placed in a room or ward. The average number of inmates is 190.

A school is maintained during the year, and is under the direction of the board of education. Religious services are performed every Sabbath, and a Sabbath school is maintained, and the house is supplied with Bibles. The children, upon reaching a suitable age, are bound out by the superintendent. A physician is employed by the year. From April to 1st September there had been eight deaths. The small pox prevailed during the last winter, and the measles were prevailing at the time of the committees' visit. There is a pest house on the premises, but is unfit to be used, and is therefore unoccupied.

The keeper stated that the house was visited every month by a committee from the board of supervisors, and that the diet of the paupers consisted of salt beef, vegetables, soup, milk, coffee and tea. Among the inmates there were thirty lunatics—four males and twenty-six females, and all paupers. Application had been made at the State institution for admission, which was refused for want of room, and three who were then at Utica were required to be taken away. One lunatic had escaped from the house, and no attempts had been made to secure her or bring her back. Three cures were thought to have occurred during the last five months, and were discharged, and during the same time fifteen new cases had been received. They receive no special

medical attention, but are waited upon by pauper attendants. No restraints employed except confinement in cells, and only one in confinement, and this one being in one of the cells already described, your committee could gain but little information *how the case stood inside*, from the light afforded through the small hole in the top of the door. Your committee, upon expressing a wish to examine the case more fully, were assured by the keeper that the occupant of the cell was naked and filthy, and in no condition to receive or see company, and besides it was not quite safe, *although it was a female*, but upon being informed that the committee's curiosity could only be satisfied by a further examination, the keeper requested the committee to retire until she could be put in a presentable shape. On our return we found a healthy-looking female quietly permitting, and even assisting in the adjustment of her attire, with but very little evidence of loss of reason, so far as the expression of the countenance was concerned. The bed arrangement consisted of two boards fastened up on the side of the cell, one for the bottom, the other a front piece, filled with the litter of straw which one of the paupers, holding a broom in one hand, was sifting through her fingers upon the floor with the other, for the purpose of absorbing the fluids and filth that it might be removed. The sides of the cell for five or six feet high or more were perfectly besmeared with human filth, and *this* the abode of a human being, a female, a *pauper*, a LUNATIC, for days, and weeks, and months together, until perchance frost shall cripple or pestilence destroy. Your committee dare not trust themselves to make comments on the above, but they will inquire of that committee from the board of supervisors, who are said by the keeper to visit the house every month, if this is the standard and measure of public charity of the constituency they represent.

Among the inmates are two male idiots and two deaf and dumb. Seven-eighths of all that come to this house come consequent upon habits of inebriation.

RICHMOND COUNTY HOUSE

Is constructed of stone and consists of two buildings two stories high, thirty by twenty feet, and forty-eight by forty-eight feet; the ceilings are low, without ventilation and without any provision for bathing, and a general survey of the house with its fixtures, as you approach it, is entirely in harmony with its name. The basement is occupied for domestic purposes, and by two cells for the insane. The farm in connection with it, consists of 100

acres, and yields an annual revenue of \$3,000. Seventeen rooms are appropriated to the use of the paupers, and sometimes from sixteen to eighteen are kept and lodged in a room twenty feet square, without any facilities for ventilation. It is heated by stoves. Fifty-five inmates are found in it—twenty-five males and thirty females, three-fourths of whom were foreign and one-fourth native born. The sexes are placed in separate departments at night, but require watching to preserve the separation. The house is under the care of one keeper and his wife, assisted by the paupers, and supported at a weekly cost of \$1.00 for each pauper.

The superintendent of the poor purchases the supplies for the house, and provides and prescribes rules for the regulation of the diet, binds out the children and discharges the lunatics when dismissed from the house. The average number of inmates is eighty. The house is supplied with Bibles—no other means for religious instruction is enjoyed. A school has been taught for eight months the last year. The board of supervisors have visited the house once within the year.

A physician is employed to answer all calls, at a salary of \$100 a year. There have been three births, (illegitimate,) and seven deaths. Of the inmates five are lunatics, one male and four females, and all paupers, none of whom have been improved or cured. Two of them are constantly confined in cells, one of them in a building remote in the field, to whom food was said to be carried three times a day. These lunatics have no special attendants, and receive no particular medical attention. One lunatic has been sent to the Bloomingdale lunatic asylum. The modes practised to restrain is to lock up in cells, and apply ball and chain. One pauper an idiot. Seven-eighths of the inmates are reduced to their present position, consequent upon habits of inebriation.

The whole aspect of the house indicated negligence on the part of all whose business and whose duty it is to make it a comfortable asylum for the indigent and the unfortunate; instead of which it is a cheerless, comfortless abode, and fallen far below what the county of Richmond should supply and support.

ROCKLAND COUNTY HOUSE.

The buildings of this establishment are of wood, one thirty-six by forty feet, one twenty-four by sixteen feet, and the other thirty

six feet square. Connected is a farm of forty-seven acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$700.

The basements of the building are not occupied. There are for the occupation of paupers, twenty-three rooms or wards, warmed by stoves, but not all ventilated. The number of inmates was seventy; thirty-five males, thirty-five females. Of these four-fifths were foreign born, and thirty under sixteen years of age. The sexes are kept separate; they are under the care of a single keeper. Generally from one to three are placed in a single room. The average number of inmates is one hundred, supported at a weekly expense of seventy-five cents each; all who are able work upon the farm or about the house. During the year the supervisors have inspected the house once; they impose rules for the government of the house, and regulation of the system of diet. The supplies are purchased by the keeper as needed, and the fare is plain and wholesome. The house is supplied with Bibles, but no provision is made for religious instruction. A teacher is employed in the house to instruct the children during the entire year. A physician is employed who visits the house once each week and oftener if called. There are no arrangements for bathing; during the last year ten deaths have occurred. There is no pest house.

Of the inmates six are lunatics; two males and four females; three are paupers, the others pay for their support. But one has been admitted during the year. They have no more attendance than other paupers. Two are confined in cells and one is restrained in a straight jacket. *None* during the past year have been cured or improved. Eight of the inmates are idiots; five males, three females. There is one deaf and dumb.

Five-sixths of the paupers are reduced to their present condition through intemperance.

This house is in good order and condition throughout, the paupers are well cared for and well fed and kept. The rooms, too, are clean and comfortable.

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is located near Canton, and consists of wooden edifices, two stories joined together, each twenty-two by thirty feet on the ground. The farm consists of one hundred and thirty acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$1000. The basements are oc-

cupied by paupers. It has no ventilation and no provision for bathing. Twenty rooms are appropriated to the use of the inmates, in which rooms from one to seven are placed. One hundred and twenty paupers were found in the house, forty males and eighty females, of whom sixty were foreign and sixty native born, including forty children. The sexes are not kept separate either by day or night. They are in charge of one keeper who assisted by his wife and aided by the paupers, work the farm and provide for the wants of the family. The supplies for the house are furnished by *contract*. The supervisors have visited the house once during the year. The average number supported in the house is one hundred and fifty, at an average cost of eighty-three cents each per week. The house is not supplied with Bibles, but a Sabbath school is maintained, and a day school during the whole time at a cost of \$1.00 per week. A physician is employed who will do the business at the smallest price, the present incumbent receives a salary of \$90 per year. During the year there have been ten births and twelve deaths, There is one blind, one deaf and dumb, and twelve lunatics, five males and seven females and all paupers. They have no special attendants nor receive any special medical attention. None have been cured or improved the past year. Some are confined in cells constantly. The methods of restraining are confinement in cells, handcuffs and shackles. The house does not allow of the classification of the insane. There is one idiot twenty-four years old. Three-fourths of the whole number who receive support in this house are reduced to this necessity consequent upon habits of inebriation.

SARATOGA COUNTY HOUSE.

The building of this establishment is a wooden one, 106 feet square, and two stories in height. Connected is a farm of 112 acres, yielding a revenue of \$900. The basements are used as washing and eating rooms. Above are seventeen rooms, or wards, occupied by the paupers and warmed by stoves, but without ventilation. The number of inmates was 102, fifty males and fifty-two females. Of these one-third are of foreign birth and twenty-five under sixteen years of age. The sexes are separated at night. The average number of inmates is 137, supported at a weekly cost of ninety-three cents each. The paupers are employed, as far as able, on the farm and about the house.

The house has been inspected once during the year by the supervisors of the county. It is supplied with Bibles, and there

are occasional religious services. A common school is sustained in the house during the whole year. The superintendent furnishes supplies for the house and prescribes rules for its government ; binds out the children and exercises the power of discharging lunatics. A physician is employed by the year, who attends twice a week, and oftener if required. There are no facilities for bathing. During the year have occurred ten births and thirty-six deaths. During this time the small pox has prevailed, but no cases have proved fatal. There is a pest-house.

Of the inmates ten are lunatics, three males and seven females. All are paupers. They receive no special attendance. Five are confined in cells, and some are at times restrained by shackles and hand-cuffs. The keeper reports that *some* have been improved. Lunatics have escaped from the house and not again been found. Eleven of the inmates are idiots, five males and six females ; all are over ten years of age. There are three blind persons. Of 137 paupers sixty-three were brought here through intemperate habits.

This house is an old one and badly dilapidated. The rooms are low, sadly out of repair, and the air in the sleeping rooms is most foul and noisome. It is very well attended, however, by the present keeper, and is kept in as good order as possible. Corporal punishment is administered to *men, women* and children.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

Is built of brick, fifty by thirty feet and two stories in height. Connected is a farm of 116 acres yielding an annual income of \$1,200.00. The basements are not occupied by paupers. In the house are twenty-eight rooms, warmed by stoves but not at all ventilated. These rooms are small and the ceilings not more than seven and a half feet high. Never more than four paupers are placed in one room. The number of inmates was fifty-six, thirty-one males and twenty-five females. Of these one-half are foreign born, and twenty under sixteen years of age. The sexes are kept separate. There is but one keeper. The average number of inmates is seventy-five, supported at a weekly cost of eighty-four cents each. Able paupers are employed on the farm and about the house. During the year the supervisors have inspected the house once. It is supplied with Bibles and on the Sabbath religious services are held. From eight to nine months of the year a school is taught in the house. The superintendents

of the poor regulate the government of the house and its system of diet, furnishes the supplies and discharges the insane. A physician to attend the paupers is employed by the year. There are no arrangements for bathing. During the year have occurred one birth and three deaths. No contagious disease has prevailed. For such an event a pest house is provided.

Of the inmates three are lunatics, one male and two females, all are paupers. Two are confined in cells, which is the only means of restraint in use. None are reported improved or cured. They receive no different attendance, medical or other, from the sane paupers. Seven of the inmates are idiots, three males and four females, one, a boy, is under sixteen years of age.

No corporal punishment is administered to the paupers. It is estimated that nine-tenths are brought here directly or indirectly by habits of intemperance. This house is badly constructed and decidedly unhealthy.

SCHOHARIE COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is located at Middleburgh, and is a two-story brick building, 100x40 feet, containing nine large rooms or wards, appropriated to the use of the paupers, with low ceilings, and without ventilation, and without any provision for bathing, and is heated by stoves. Connected with the house is a farm of 160 acres, yielding an annual net revenue of \$800.

Thirty-five inmates were found in the house, twelve male and twenty-three female, and of these two were foreign and thirty-three native born. The average number provided for at this house is about sixty, who are under the care of one keeper and his wife, who perform all the necessary labor connected with the management of the family and the farm, assisted by the paupers. At night the males and females are locked, each in separate departments of the house; during the day there is no separation except at the tables. The superintendent purchases all the supplies for the house and imposes rules regulating the diet, and when suitable places are found, indentures the children, and exercises exclusive control in the discharge of lunatics. There were seven children under sixteen years, who are instructed in the house because of the refusal of the trustees of the school district to receive them in the district school. The food furnished is of a plain, nutritious character, and no complaint but that it was in sufficient

quantity. A physician is employed by the year to answer all calls, at a salary of \$62. The house is supplied with Bibles, and preaching is enjoyed once in two weeks. The supervisors of the county have visited the house once during the year, during the same time there have been seven deaths.

Of the inmates two were lunatics, both females and paupers. None have been admitted during the year, nor any improved or cured. They are occasionally restrained by placing them in cells in the *basement*. They receive no special medical attention. The county is supporting six lunatics in the State Asylum.

Ten of the inmates are idiots, eight males and two females. Full two-thirds of all who receive support in this house are brought there consequent upon habits of inebriation.

The general appearance of the establishment indicated a disposition on the part of the keeper to discharge his duty, impaired a little, perhaps, by an effort to show, on a comparison with his predecessor, that he was supporting the paupers at a cheaper rate than he. Seventy-five cents per week was given as the cost of their support.

SCHUYLER COUNTY.

This county having been recently organized, has not as yet built a county poor house. The method adopted and practised is for each town to support its own poor within its own limits, and to send such cases as are chargeable to the county to the poor houses of the several counties from which the several towns are originally taken.

SENECA COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is located about four miles from the village of Waterloo, and is a three story stone building, ninety by sixty feet, connected with which is a farm of one hundred and twenty-six acres. The basements are occupied for domestic puposes. It is warmed by furnaces and partially ventilated, but no provision exists for bathing. Twenty-four rooms are appropriated to the use of paupers. Forty-four inmates were found in the house, twenty-one males and twenty-three females of whom nineteen were foreign and twenty-five native born, including six children. Four of the paupers are chargeable to the Commissioners of Emigration. The sexes are kept separate. There is one keeper who with his wife

aided by the paupers take care of the family and farm. The keeper purchases needful supplies for the house under the direction of the superintendent of the poor. The superintendent of the poor binds out children of suitable age, prescribes rules regulating the diet and exercises the power to discharge lunatics. The board of supervisors have visited the house once during the year. The average number of inmates is sixty, supported at a weekly cost of \$1.00 each. The house is supplied with Bibles, there is no other provision for religious instruction. A school teacher is employed four months in the year to teach the children. A physician is employed by the year. There have been two births and seven deaths during the year. Of the inmates seven are lunatics, two males and five females and all paupers, six have been received during the year. None have been cured or improved. Three are confined in cells *the whole time*, these are looked after and cared for by pauper attendants, but receive no special medical attention. Confinement in cells is the only form of restraint practiced. No application has been made either to the State Lunatic or Idiot Asylum during the year. Three of the inmates are idiots, all males, the youngest eighteen years old. One half of the inmates come to be such consequent upon habits of inebriation.

STEUBEN COUNTY POOR HOUSE,

Is located at Bath, and consists of three buildings, two of them brick; of these one is forty by eighty feet, and one thirty-six by twenty-four feet, and one of wood, thirty by twenty-two, containing thirty-one rooms for the use of paupers. It is without ventilation or any provisions for bathing. The basement is used for cooking and for storing provisions. It is warmed by stoves. Connected with the house is a farm of two hundred and fourteen acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$2000. The number of inmates sixty; twenty-six males and thirty-four females; of these fifty-three were native, and seven foreign born, including eight children. The paupers freely commingle during the day, and though placed in separate apartments at night, can gain access to each other if they choose. They are in charge of one keeper and his wife, who in addition to the care of the family and management of the farm, purchases supplies for the house, regulates the diet, and sometimes exercises the right to discharge lunatics. The paupers assist to labor in the house and on the farm, and are supported at a weekly cost of \$1.01 each, and seem to be well fed on good, plain, wholesome food, and in sufficient quantity. The chil-

dren are not instructed, either in or out of the house, but when suitable places are found are bound out, irrespective of their age. There is no religious instruction in the house, and it is but partially supplied with Bibles.

The paupers receive the attention of a physician twice a week and oftener if necessary, who for his services receives a salary of \$100 a year. There have been five births during the year, (three illegitimate) and four deaths. The board of supervisors visit this house once a year. The average number receiving support is seventy-five.

Of the inmates thirty-seven are lunatics; fifteen males and twenty females, all paupers. Four have been received during the year, of these two have recovered and been discharged. They receive no special medical attention. Four of the number are kept constantly in cells which are dark and unpleasant, and without any special attendants. The only method of restraining the insane is by locking them in cells. The house does not admit of the classification of the insane. There is one idiot, a male.

Mostly all who require and receive support at this house are rendered dependent upon public charity, consequent upon habits of inebriation. The accommodations here are more ample than are often found, and the cells of the insane are ventilated by an escape passage for bad air, in each cell. The paupers seemed contented and well cared for.

SULLIVAN COUNTY HOUSE

Is a wooden building fifty feet square, and two stories in height. Attached is a farm of 100 acres, yielding a revenue of about \$400.

The basements of the building are not occupied. Seven rooms or wards are occupied by the paupers, which are warmed by stoves, but destitute of ventilation. The number of inmates was thirty-five—twelve males and twenty-three females. Of these, nineteen are foreign, and sixteen native born, and twelve under sixteen years of age. The sexes are kept separate, but the separation has been enforced and preserved only recently, the present keeper in April last finding women and men, at night, occupying the same rooms. This is now prevented. The average number of inmates is fifty-five, supported at an average weekly cost of seventy-five cents each. The able-bodied paupers labor on the

farm and about the house. Once during the year the supervisors have inspected the house. It is supplied with Bibles, but no provision is made for religious instruction. A common school is taught in the house during three months of the year, and in the interval children are sent to the district school. The superintendents of the poor furnish supplies and prescribe rules for the government of the house. The fare of the paupers is of pork, bread and vegetables; tea and milk are also furnished. A physician is employed by the year to attend the sick. Four deaths have occurred since last April.

Of the inmates seven are lunatics—two males, five females. All are paupers. None have been admitted during the year. They have only such attendance as is furnished the other paupers. One is confined in a cell; as a means of restraint they are so confined, and occasionally shackles and handcuffs are used. The construction of the house is not such as to allow of their classification. The power of discharge is in the superintendents. Four of the paupers are idiots—two males and two females; one is a boy of two years, and one a girl of ten. Both could be much benefited at a proper asylum.

Two-thirds of the paupers, at least, are brought here through intemperance.

This house is every way bad; want of room, want of water, want of pure air are all combined to make it unfit for its designed purposes. The cells for lunatics cannot be made comfortably warm in winter, and are now very offensive. They have only straw for beds, no bedding. *Whipping* is resorted to in the house, in the case of children, *adults* and *even idiots*. The son of the former keeper was seen to use the lash upon an idiot boy who failed to make a fire in a manner to suit the young man.

The present keeper is a better man, and does all he can in such a place and with such facilities.

TIoga COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is located near Owego, and is constructed of stone, thirty-six by seventy-five feet, affording fifteen rooms for the accommodation of paupers, but is without ventilation and without baths. It is heated by stoves, in connexion with it is a farm of sixty-two and a half acres, yielding a revenue of \$600.

The number of inmates was sixty-one, thirty males and thirty-one females, fifteen foreign and forty-six native born and thirteen

of these are children under sixteen years of age. The average number is about seventy-five under the care of one keeper and his wife, who provide for the wants of the family and work the farm, assisted by the paupers so far as they are able to work. There is no attempt to separate the sexes during the day and no special pains taken to separate them at night. The paupers are supported upon the products of the farm, and purchases made by the keeper to whom is committed also the adoption of rules regulating their diet. The food seemed of good quality and sufficient in amount. The power of discharging lunatics is also sometimes exercised by the keeper. The house is supplied with Bibles, no religious instruction is imparted, nor are the children taught either in or out of the house. When suitable places can be found the children are bound out by the superintendent. Provision is made for calling a physician, who charges for his services by the visit. During the year there have been six births and four deaths.

The supervisors have not visited the house the past year.

Of the inmates six are lunatics, and all females and all paupers. None of whom have been improved or cured, and receive no special attention medically or otherwise. The apartments devoted to the use of the insane were found in very bad condition. One poor woman was found in her filth and dirt in a dilapidated brick cell where she had been incarcerated for years, denied the pure air and light of heaven. The usual mode of restraining the insane is to confine them in cells. The only bright side to this picture, is to be found in the fact that new and more fitting accommodations are being erected for these poor creatures.

Three-fourths of the whole number supported in this house, come to need charity, consequent upon habits of inebriation.

TOMPKINS COUNTY POOR HOUSE,

Is located six miles from Ithaca, is constructed of wood and is 76 by 30 feet, with a wing 22 by 40 feet, two stories high. It contains fifteen rooms, without any provision for ventilation or bathing and is warmed by stoves and fireplaces. Connected with the house is a farm of one hundred acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$1,500. The basement of the building is occupied as setting and lodging rooms for the paupers. The number of inmates was thirty-seven, sixteen males and twenty-one females, of these four were foreign and thirty-three native born, and nine

under sixteen years of age. Under the care of one keeper and his wife, who provide and care for the family and work the farm with the assistance of the paupers, so far as they are able to work. In this house the sexes are kept separated day and night, and are placed from two to ten in a room, except the lunatics who are each placed in a single cell. The supplies are purchased by the keeper and the diet regulated by him. The food is plain substantial fare, provided twice a day. The children are *not admitted* into the district school and receive no instruction in the house. Whenever suitable places can be procured they are bound out by the superintendent. No provision is made for religious instruction and the house is but partially supplied with Bibles. Medical aid is provided, which service is paid for by the visit.

The average number of inmates is fifty-three, two-thirds of whom are reduced to want by reason of habits of inebriation. There have been fifteen deaths and two births, both of which were illegitimate, during the year.

The board of supervisors visit this house regularly once a year. Of the inmates seven are lunatics, two males and five females, are all paupers. One has been admitted during the year. None have been cured or improved. They are confined in cells, without any special attendants or medical attention. One is placed in shackles to prevent his injuring his associates. The house does not admit of a classification of the insane. The right to discharge them is exercised by the keeper. Two of the paupers are idiots, one male and one female.

This house was visited in the absence of the keeper; and was found in bad repair, the walls crumbling and falling in most of the apartments, but seemed to be kept in as good order as could reasonably be expected in so dilapidated a structure.

ULSTER COUNTY HOUSE,

Is constructed of wood, twenty-two by one hundred and twenty feet, two stories in height, connected with a farm of one hundred and forty acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$500. The basements are only occupied for domestic purposes. In the house are eight rooms or wards, warmed by stoves, but not at all ventilated. In the largest of these rooms forty-five paupers are placed in the winter, and twenty in the summer. This room is mostly filled

with invalids, is in size about twenty by thirty feet, with low ceilings, the air confined and altogether most unhealthy. The number of inmates was one hundred and twenty—seventy males and fifty females; of these forty are foreign and eighty native born; forty-five are under 16 years of age. The sexes are kept separate. They are under the care of a single keeper, by whom is kept the usual system of registration. The average number of inmates is one hundred and seventy-five, supported at an average weekly cost of \$1.25, aside from the products of the farm. As far as able the paupers labor on the farm and about the house. No authorities have inspected or visited the house during the year. It is supplied with Bibles, and preaching is enjoyed on Sundays. For six months of the year a school is taught in the house. The superintendents of the poor furnish rules to govern the paupers, regulate their diet, bind out the children, and exercise the power of discharging lunatics. A physician is employed by the year. During the year have occurred twenty births and fifty deaths. The paupers have suffered considerably from the small pox during that time. There is no pest house provided.

Of the inmates fifteen are lunatics—three males and twelve females; all are paupers. Five have been admitted during the last year. They receive no special medical attendance, but a male attendant supplies their ordinary wants. *Ten are confined in cells*, and one restrained with chains. Beside the main building are several small old buildings on the premises, in one of which—a very poor one—were twelve cells for lunatics, very open, and where it is barely possible to keep them from perishing.

In the house are twelve idiots—four males and eight females; two of the females are under 16 years of age.

Three-fourths of the paupers are reduced to their present condition by intemperate habits.

WARREN COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is a wooden structure, two stories high, 26x60 feet, and *fifty years old*, and is in a very dilapidated condition. This house is ventilated through the cracks and crevices, and cannot be kept warm and comfortable in severe weather. There is no provisions for bathing. Connected with the house is a farm of 200 acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$800. Six rooms are appropriated to the use of the paupers, in each of which from four to fourteen

are placed. The number of inmates found in the house was thirty-four, seventeen male and seventeen female, and one-half foreign and one-half native born, including eight children, all under the care of one keeper, who, assisted by his wife and aided by the paupers, provide for the family and manage the farm. The average number supported in the house is fifty-four, at a weekly expense of 90 cents each. The fare consists of plain, wholesome food, provided so far as not produced on the farm by purchase by the superintendent of the poor, who also prescribes rules regulating the diet, binds out the children on arriving at a suitable age, and exercises the power of discharging lunatics when they are dismissed from the house.

The house is annually visited by the board of supervisors, and is supplied with Bibles, but enjoys no other means of religious instruction. The children either attend the district school or are taught in the house. A physician is employed, who visits the house once a week, at a salary of \$75 a year.

There have been two births and eight deaths, two are blind, occasioned by disease, one twelve years old. Of the inmates three are lunatics, two males and one female, and all are paupers; three have been admitted during the year. They have no special attendants, or special medical attention. One has improved during the year. Confinement in cells is the only form of restraint practised. There is one idiot, a boy fourteen years old.

Two-thirds of the inmates come to receive public charity consequent upon habits of instruction.

WASHINGTON COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is located in the town of Argyle, and is constructed of brick, two stories, 100 x 30 feet on the ground; connected with which is a farm of 170 acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$1,500. The location of this house is well suited to promote its designs, and the general appearance of the house, farm and fixtures, indicate system, order and thrift. The house has no special provision for ventilation; yet the keeper gave evidence that he understood and appreciated the difference between pure and foul air. Neither is there any provision for bathing. It is heated by stoves. Thirty-one rooms are appropriated to the use of the paupers, in which from one to ten are placed in a room. The number of inmates was 112, fifty males and sixty-two females. Of these fifty-six were foreign and fifty-six native born, including

forty children, about twenty of whom had been placed out on trial with farmers and others, preliminary to binding them out. The separation of the sexes in this house is complete, day and night, except that they meet in the dining hall while eating.

The house and farm is under the management of one keeper, assisted by his wife and pauper labor. The superintendent of the poor purchases the supplies for the house, prescribes rules regulating the diet, binds out the children of suitable age, and exercises the power of discharging lunatics when they are dismissed. The average number of inmates is 124, who are furnished with good plain food at a weekly expense of sixty-seven and a half cents each.

The house has been once visited by the board of supervisors during the year. A physician is employed by the year at a salary of \$50. A school is taught in the house eleven months in the year. Religious exercises are maintained every morning by the keeper. The house is partially supplied with Bibles. There have been five births and eleven deaths during the year. Two are dumb, but can hear; five are blind; one of these four years old. Of the inmates twenty are lunatics, ten males and ten females, and all paupers. Two have been received during the year and *six have escaped*.

The lunatics have no special attendants and receive no special medical attention. One is set down as having *recovered*. *Several* are confined in cells. The methods of restraint are locking in cells, chaining to the floor, and hand-cuffs. The house admits of a partial classification of the insane. No application has been made to the State Lunatic Asylum for the admission of lunatics during the year. Three of the inmates are idiots, two male and one female. One-half of all who come to this house are brought, consequent upon habits of inebriation.

WAYNE COUNTY POOR HOUSE,

Is located near Lyons. The main building is constructed of stone, forty by sixty feet two stories, connected with which is a farm of one hundred and ninety acres, which yields an annual income of \$1400. The basement of this house is occupied for domestic uses *and cells*. There is no special provision for ventilation or bathing. Sixteen rooms are appropriated to the use of the paupers—sixty of whom we found in the house; forty

males and twenty females; of these forty were foreign and twenty native born, including fifteen children. From four to five are usually placed in a room but when crowded from fifteen to sixteen. At night there is a complete separation of the sexes, which is preserved but partially during the day. The establishment is in charge of one keeper and his wife, who are assisted by the paupers according to their ability to labor. The average number supported in this house is sixty-seven, at a weekly expense of \$1.55 each. The fare furnished is good, plain substantial food, and in sufficient quantity. Religious services are maintained in the house every Sabbath. It is also supplied with Bibles and a school taught in the house the whole time. The superintendent of the poor exercises the power to discharge lunatics. The supplies for the house are purchased by the keeper, who also prescribes rules regulating the diet of the inmates. The board of supervisors visit the house once a year. The superintendents of the poor visit it once a month. A physician is employed, who visits the house whenever called, charging fifty cents a visit, and ten cents additional for each patient. There have been ten deaths during the year.

Of the inmates seven are lunatics; five males and two females, all paupers; two have been received during the year. There have been recoveries but none during the present year. The lunatics have no special attendants, or special medical attention. The mode of restraining them is by confinement in cells.

Four of the paupers are idiots; two males and two females, all of whom are fit subjects for the State Idiot Asylum. There is one blind. No corporeal punishment is employed.

Eight-tenths of all who are received into this house are brought here consequent upon habits of inebriation. This house seems to be well kept; order, cleanliness, and contentment were every where apparent. But the buildings are insufficient to properly answer the necessary wants of so large a family.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY HOUSE.

This is a large building of stone, in size eighty by seventy feet, with wings seventy by thirty feet, and three stories in height, connected with a farm of one hundred and seventy three acres, yielding a revenue of \$2,500.00. The basements are uoccupied; for the use of the paupers, there are about twenty rooms or wards,

warmed by stoves and a furnace, but not at all ventilated. The number of inmates was one hundred and ninety-one, eighty-six males and one hundred and five females. Of these one hundred and twelve are foreign born and seventy-nine native born, and seventy-five under sixteen years of age. The sexes are kept separate. They are under the care of a single keeper assisted by the more able paupers. The average number of inmates is two hundred and twenty-five, supported at a weekly expense of sixty-eight and a half cents each. As far as possible the women are employed in and about the house and the men on the farm. Once during the year the house has been visited by the supervisors of the county. It is supplied with Bibles, and a Sabbath school is taught the whole year. A teacher is employed in the house to teach the common English branches, about forty children is the average attendance. The superintendents of the poor regulate the government of the house, and furnish supplies and bind out the children on their arrival at a suitable age. In many cases these children are *adopted* in good families. A physician is employed by the year and is a resident of the house. There are no facilities for bathing. During the year there have been twenty births and sixteen deaths. During the year the paupers have suffered both from small pox and ship fever. They have a "pest house."

Of the inmates twenty-five are lunatics, eleven males and fourteen females, all are paupers but two. They are attended by the resident physician and have two attendants, one woman and a man. *None* are confined, except when violent, when they are placed in cells; they are restrained by straight jacket and hand cuffs, and sometimes chained to the floor. During the year seven have been cured and two improved, three have escaped and not been found. There is an asylum provided for these unfortunates, apart from all other inmates. A good yard is attached for each sex. Their apartments allow of their classification.

In the room used for the paupers as a hospital, there is a large number of sick and sickly, it is very much crowded, the ceilings are very low and there is no ventilation, as a consequence the air is most impure. A stream is running within a few rods of the house, but there is no bathing by the paupers.

Eleven of the inmates are idiots, five males and six females. There are two deaf and dumb and three blind. Intemperance reduces three-fourths of the inmates to their present condition.

WYOMING COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Consists of an old wooden farm house, with wings 28 x 20, 60 x 24, 18 x 30 feet. Connected with the house is a farm of ninety-seven acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$300.

There are twenty-two rooms, with low ceilings, without ventilation and without any accommodations for bathing. From two to seven are usually placed in a room. Sixty-five inmates were found in this house, twenty-six males and thirty-nine females; of these fifteen were foreign and fifty native born, including eleven children. The sexes are separated during the night. They are in charge of one keeper, assisted by his wife and the paupers, in the management of the family and the farm.

The superintendent of the poor purchases the supplies for the house, prescribes rules regulating the diet, binds out the children of suitable age, and exercises the power of discharging lunatics when they are dismissed. A physician is employed by the year at a salary of \$100. There have been two deaths since last December. The house is not supplied with Bibles. Religious instruction is imparted every Sabbath. A school has been taught two months. The food is plain, good, substantial fare. The supervisors have visited the house once the present year. The average number supported is seventy-three, at a weekly cost of 75 cents per week each. Twelve of the inmates are lunatics, five male and seven female, and all paupers; two have been received since last December. Of the whole number none have been cured or improved; nor do they have any special attendants, or special medical attention; they are restrained by confinement in cells and shackles; two were found in chains. The house does not admit of the classification of the insane. Four lunatics have been sent to the State Lunatic Asylum, and no application has been refused. The keeper sometimes exercises the right to dismiss lunatics. One lunatic had escaped, from whom no tidings had been obtained. Two of the inmates are idiots, both females. Two-thirds of the paupers in this house become such consequent upon habits of inebriation.

Among the inmates of this house was found a revolutionary veteran, a soldier under Washington, reduced by misfortune to the necessity of sharing in the poor house charities of the country he periled his life to save. He had but recently learned that he was entitled to a *pension*, and it was a satisfaction to reflect that he would soon be placed in widely different circumstances.

YATES COUNTY POOR HOUSE

Is located in the town of Jerusalem. It is a stone structure, and including the basement, is three stories high, fifty by 100 feet on the ground—built some twenty years ago, with very low ceilings and without ventilation, and with no provisions for bathing. It is heated by stoves and fire-places, or rather attempted to be. The keeper stated that some of the rooms could not be kept warm in some weather, and that several cases had occurred in the house in which the paupers had been frost bitten, and that one of those was a *lunatic*. Connected with the house is a farm of 123 acres, yielding an annual revenue of \$1,000. Fifteen rooms are appropriated to the use of the poor, and as many as eighteen are sometimes placed in a single room. The basement is occupied for dining halls and cooking. Sixty inmates were found in the house—thirty male and thirty female, fifteen foreign and forty-five native born, including twelve children. The sexes are kept separate at night, but not during the day. The house is in charge of one keeper and his wife, who have the management of both house and farm, assisted by the paupers. The superintendent of the poor purchases the needful supplies for the house, provides and imposes rules regulating the diet, and binds out the children when places can be procured, and discharges lunatics when cured.

The average number supported is eighty-six, at a weekly cost of \$1.40 each. The house is supplied with Bibles, and preaching is enjoyed once in four weeks. The children have been taught eight months in the house, and were at the time attending the district school.

The supervisors have visited the house twice during the last year. A physician is employed to visit the house twice a week. There has been one birth and four deaths during the year. Five of the inmates are *lunatics*—two male and three female, none of whom have ever been sent to the State Lunatic Asylum. They have no special attendants, nor do they receive any special medical attention, and none have been cured or improved. One is kept constantly in a cell.

The modes of restraining are by the “use of irons” and locking in cells, *where one lunatic was frozen*. It is stated as a common occurrence that water is frozen all night in the lodging rooms in the main building. The number of idiots is seven—three males and four females, and four who are blind. During the winter

usually about twenty emigrants are provided for here, and two-thirds of the whole number who receive aid here are forced to seek and receive it consequent upon habits of inebriation.

The poor house building is quite unsuited and insufficient, *humanely* to meet the wants of the poor.

II. ORPHAN ASYLUMS AND HOMES FOR THE FRIENDLESS.

ALBANY ORPHAN ASYLUM, ALBANY.

This asylum was established and incorporated in 1830, and has since been supported by private donations, by interest on a small vested fund, by appropriations from the State, and sums received for support of alms-house children. The present number of inmates is one hundred; they are received between the ages of three and twelve years, and disposed of by indenture at such ages as good opportunities present. While in the asylum the children are instructed in those English branches taught in common schools. The school is not inspected by school officers, neither do they share in the Common School Fund. The children enjoy the privileges of a Sabbath school, and occasionally other religious teaching. The institution can accommodate one hundred and fifty inmates. The house is very well built and commodious, and surrounded by fine gardens and yards.

AMERICAN FEMALE GUARDIAN SOCIETY HOUSE FOR THE FRIENDLESS, NEW-YORK.

This institution, located in the city of New-York, was established twenty-two years since. Its general design is to shelter temporarily houseless wanderers, both old and young, and furnish them situations where they can readily support themselves, and relieve society of a burthen. The present number of inmates is seventy, but the average is one hundred and ten.

Of the children, boys are received in the house between the ages of two and ten years, girls at all ages, and infants of both sexes. While inmates of the House all of suitable age are instructed in the common branches of an English education, and whenever a suitable home offers, they are dismissed and placed in families, some by indenture, but the greatest proportion by

adoption. No difficulty is experienced in finding home for healthy children. The managers generally trace the after progress of the children, and in most cases witness their success. Nine-tenths of these are of foreign birth, and a large majority Catholics, committed by them to the house. Connected with the institution is a ragged school, with an average attendance of one hundred and fifty children, five days in the week. Their dinners are furnished them, and they provided with places where they may earn their sustenance.

Last year three hundred and seventy children were placed in homes through this agency. Wandering, houseless females are sheltered and fed during a night, or longer if need be, and furnished with situations by the house, they are also sometimes clothed. When full the young are preferred. Four hundred and seventy-seven girls and women were found places *free of charge* during the past year.

The house publishes semi-monthly a paper having a circulation of 25,000 copies, devoted to the interests of the cause in which they are engaged. This sheet pays the expense of its publication and yields a profit. The institution is supported solely by private charity; it has received two donations from the city. They also participate in the Common School Fund. They receive aid in contributions of clothing from most of the free States. The property occupied by this society cost \$26,000, and has been paid for by private donation. It has been mortgaged for \$15,000 to erect a new building, in order to extend the sphere of the society's operations; this will be completed on the first of May.

Five-eighths of those relieved are brought to the house in consequence of intemperance.

BROOKLYN ORPHAN ASYLUM SOCIETY.

This institution located in the city of Brooklyn and founded in 1828, has under its care one hundred and three orphans: These children are received between the ages of two and one-half and eleven years, and dismissed whenever suitable opportunities present. They are disposed of on dismissal by adoption into families or placed under indenture, more frequently the former method. The asylum has found homes for fifty children during the last year. The average number of children in asylum is one hundred and twenty-eight. They are uniformly healthy and

the hospital has not had an occupant for more than two years. While inmates of the institution they are instructed in the common branches of an English education.

The asylum is supported by charity and appropriations from the State. The last appropriation was \$1,959.44. Ninety per cent of the inmates are children of foreign parents.

BUFFALO ORPHAN ASYLUM—BUFFALO.

This institution is pleasantly located in the city of Buffalo, and has now under its care seventy-two orphans. They are received at the age of two years and dismissed at twelve if possible at that time to provide suitable homes for them. While at the asylum they are instructed in a common school education. Three-fourths are of foreign parentage. They are bound out by the trustees as apprentices and servants, the males till twenty-one the females till eighteen years of age. So far as knowledge extends, the character and success of the children after leaving the asylum has been satisfactory. The institution is supported by charitable contributions and appropriations from the State. They have heretofore received assistance from the Common School Fund, but do not at present. The institution was established in 1836, and seems admirably conducted and managed. It received last year from the State appropriation, seven hundred and eleven dollars.

CAYUGA ORPHAN ASYLUM—AUBURN.

This institution, located at Auburn and established in 1852, is supported by charitable contributions, by aid from the county and by appropriations from the State. The sum received from the county of Cayuga during the last year was \$1,000, that from the State \$200. Thirty orphans are now inmates of the asylum. These are received at ages ranging from two to twelve years, and are usually dismissed on arriving at the latter age, or as soon thereafter as a suitable situation can be obtained for them. A school is attached where they receive instruction in the common branches of an English education, aside from religious instruction imparted by the matron. The children on leaving the asylum are bound out as apprentices, and are received in the families of those taking them as their own children. As far as advised the managers report favorable accounts of the orphans so bound out. At least two-thirds of these children are of American parentage. Each year the institution is inspected by the supervisors of the county. The asylum is well conducted but the accommodations

are limited, and a new structure built with direct reference to this object is very much needed. The building at present occupied was formerly a dwelling-house, and is not adapted to its present uses.

COLORED ORPHAN ASYLUM, NEW YORK.

This asylum, established in 1836 for the benefit of colored orphans of both sexes, has under its care two hundred and thirty-five children, and is under the direction of a board of lady managers. It received last year from the State \$2,780; from the city of New York \$5,631; from the board of education \$2,179; and for board of half orphans \$1,102.

Children are received at two years of age and bound out at twelve, by indenture, being usually removed to the country. As a condition of indenture \$100 in yearly instalments is received from the person to whom they are bound, which sums are placed in the savings bank at interest, which, with the principal, is paid to them on reaching the age of twenty-one years.

They are well instructed in the branches taught in common schools. The asylum building is favorably located, is a healthy residence, and furnishes ample accommodation for all the inmates. Religious instruction is carefully imparted by Sabbath schools and daily worship. Some of the orphans have become teachers, and good accounts are generally received of most who have been bound out by the managers.

HUDSON ORPHAN ASYLUM, HUDSON.

This asylum, located at the city of Hudson, has been established for twelve years, and now has under its care *forty* orphans. Heretofore the number under their care, at one time, has reached sixty. The institution is supported by private donations by the State appropriation, and receives \$1,000 from the county. The last sum received from the State was \$625.

The orphans are received at all ages, and are dismissed as good places for their reception may offer. They are not bound by indenture, but the managers endeavor to place them in good families. They are taught at the asylum in the common English branches. Two-thirds of the children are of foreign parentage. The building is a good substantial one, of brick, capable of accommodating from sixty to seventy children. A good school

room is attached, where is taught a school during most of the year. The whole is under the direction and control of a board of lady directresses. The committee urged upon them the propriety of enlarging the number of inmates, by taking girls from the county poor house, at a small charge to the county, and thus bringing them under better influence.

NEW-YORK JUVENILE ASYLUM.

This institution established only four years ago, has received three thousand six hundred and fifty-eight children, committed to its care under the act of the Legislature, passed June 30, 1851. Of this number one thousand four hundred and sixty-four have been discharged by the committing magistrates, seven hundred and forty-nine have been indentured; three have died during the past year, and there are now remaining in the asylum three hundred and thirty-six. The remainder have either been discharged by committee or transferred to more suitable institutions.

This institution receives boys principally but a considerable number of girls are committed to its care. Five-sevenths are by careful computation found to be children of foreign parents. In binding out children, great care is taken to place them far out of the city, and agencies have been established in several Western States to find suitable situations, and what is of equal importance, to look after them when separated from the asylum, to remove them in case they are improperly treated. The committee saw a class of between twenty and thirty prepared to start for Illinois where homes had been provided.

The managers have recently erected a building on the highest and most healthy part of the island, capable of accommodating seven hundred children, where instruction is given in all the branches taught in the common schools of the city.

The inmates, it is to be observed, are all committed for improper conduct, and in this respect this asylum differs from any other, and the managers are doing a work of the greatest importance to the public in reclaiming and instructing these unfortunate and neglected children.

It is found from careful observation that *five-sixths* of all received into the asylum are children of intemperate parents.

The managers receive from the city Corporation at the rate of sixty dollars a year for each child in the asylum, amounting last

year to \$30,524.00, and from the board of education \$3,677.00. The balance of expense incurred is supplied by private donations.

ONONDAGA COUNTY ORPHAN ASYLUM, SYRACUSE.

This asylum, established in 1845, is located at Syracuse. The institution occupies a large brick building of four stories, formerly used as an academy. There are now in the asylum seventy-nine orphans. These children are received at ages differing from three to ten years, and are dismissed on arriving at the latter age. On dismission many are adopted in families, and others are bound out, but all on condition of education in habits of total abstinence. As far as informed, the children have progressed and succeeded satisfactorily since leaving the asylum. Two-thirds of these orphans are of foreign parentage, and a large majority, in the estimation of the managers, at least seven-eighths, are reduced to their present position through the intemperance of parents. A good school is connected with the asylum, where the orphans are instructed in the elementary English branches. The institution is supported by private charity and appropriations from the State. Last year the appropriation was \$1,300. They receive no assistance from the Common School Fund.

The whole institution is under the direction and control of the ladies of Syracuse, and is very judiciously managed.

The directresses are chosen, one from each religious denomination, and all sects unite in supporting the institution.

ORPHAN ASYLUM SOCIETY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

This Institution established in 1806 by a few benevolent ladies, has now become one of the most important asylums in the State, having received and found homes for more than fifteen hundred orphans. It has now under its care 176 children, who are receiving an education equal to that furnished at any school in the city. At suitable ages they are bound out, and care is taken that they are placed in such families as will bring them up in the ways in which they have been instructed in the asylum.

The annual expense of the institution, exclusive of what is received from the board of education, and what is paid to teachers, is about \$18,000. The income is derived from private subscriptions, and from the rents of real estate. In consequence of being compelled to enlarge their edifice at an expense of \$41,000,

the trustees have incurred a debt of about \$18,000, for which their property is mortgaged.

The house is finely located on the banks of the Hudson, and when visited by the committee there were no sick among the inmates. Four fifths of all received into the asylum are children of foreign parents. Children are received at all ages under nine years, and placed out at fourteen with farmers and mechanics, who agree properly to instruct them, and to give them at twenty-one years of age, one hundred dollars and a supply of clothing. The managers are able to say that the children of this institution have generally become good and useful citizens. Five children have died the past year, all infants.

THE "ORPHANS' HOME OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN NEW-YORK,"

Has been established five years, and received last year from the State appropriation five hundred and seven dollars, and this with donations, supports the asylum. There are now under its care fifty-seven children principally half orphans, and two-thirds of these are children of foreign parents. Two deaths have occurred the past year and both by scarlet fever. Boys and girls are received from four to nine years of age; taught the common branches, and bound out at fourteen. The building is an inconvenient one, quite without ventilation and the sleeping rooms much crowded, though the inmates have a healthy and cleanly appearance.

THE OSWEGO ORPHAN ASYLUM

Is situated in the city of Oswego, and consists of a large two story house, new, built of brick, and located on an elevated piece of ground, commanding a fine view both of the city and lake. This asylum, though designed for orphans, has but three or four of that class of children among the forty-four now provided for in the institution. It is now properly an asylum for *destitute and abandoned* children, a class, if possible, more to be pitied and cared for. Children are admitted at any age from early infancy up to eight years of age, and placed out into respectable families by the managers, when opportunities offer. All of suitable age are taught the elementary branches of a common English education—attend church in the city in the forenoon on the Sabbath, and a Sabbath school at the asylum in the afternoon. This institution was founded in 1853, and has had but limited opportunities

to ascertain the measure of success as indicated by the character of the children after leaving the asylum. Nine-tenths of the inmates are children of foreign parentage.

The institution is supported by private charity, and by appropriations from the State.

It originated with, and continues to be managed and sustained mainly by the philanthropic and spirited efforts of the ladies of the city, who have entitled themselves to the commendation of the friends of the orphan and the destitute.

The asylum is still \$2,000 in debt on its lot and building.

PROTESTANT MALE ORPHAN ASYLUM, NEW YORK.

This institution, now established twenty-one years, has under its care 175 children, from four to nine years of age. It is supported by charitable contributions, by interest on a small fund invested, and last year received from the board of education \$1,905, and from the State appropriation \$2,476.

Three-fourths of the children are of foreign parentage, but born in the United States. They are not taught in the ordinary branches of a common school education; and are bound out as suitable places are found, at ages varying from nine to fourteen years.

The average number in the asylum is 180, and only three deaths have occurred in seven years. About one-half the children, or their friends, pay fifty cents per week toward their support. The actual expenses of the institution for the past year were \$7,873.

The managers are now erecting a building of larger dimensions which will be ready for occupation early next year.

POUGHKEEPSIE FEMALE GUARDIAN SOCIETY.

This society was incorporated by an act of the Legislature in April, 1852, and a number of ladies named as managers and of gentlemen as counsellors. The managers are now engaged in erecting a substantial brick building, in a healthy and pleasant part of the city, capable of accommodating one hundred children and their attendants; and though not completed, it is supposed will be soon ready for occupation. It is understood that the supervisors of the county will place under the care of the mana-

gers all the children of the alms house, who are of suitable age, to receive the instruction which the asylum will afford, paying the same for each that is now paid for their support at the county poor house. This will not only be highly beneficial to the children, but will greatly assist the society, and increase its usefulness. Though unable to occupy their building, which greatly retards their operations, the managers are engaged in providing places for homeless children, seeking aid to complete their building, and amidst many discouraging circumstances manifesting that persevering energy that will ultimately ensure success.

From previous appropriations by the Legislature the society has received six hundred dollars, and have expended in the erection of their building, and otherwise, over eight thousand; and there are now more than fifty children waiting for admission, and will be taken under their care when the house is ready to receive them. It is represented to the committee that this is the only organized charitable society in the county of Dutchess, and it is believed it will be sustained by the citizens, and prove a blessing to the destitute.

ROCHESTER ROMAN CATHOLIC ORPHAN ASYLUM.

This asylum established in 1842 chartered in 1845, is located in the city of Rochester. It is supported by donations and assistance from the State. The appropriation from the State for the last year was \$875.00, beside their pro rata share of the School Fund. Only female children are received, and they are between the ages of four and eight years. The inmates at this time number sixty-five. They are instructed in the common elements of an English education, in needle work and in trades, as millinery and tailoring, and in the truth of the Roman faith. At proper ages the children are usually received in families by adoption, or are placed out at service. Their success after leaving the asylum, so far as known, has been quite satisfactory. The Sisters of Charity who have charge of the asylum, also teach a free school at which about one hundred and fifty of the children of the city are instructed. Among the orphans is one dumb child. No deaths have occurred among them during the past year and only little sickness. The asylum is considered a healthy one. Two-thirds of the orphans are of foreign parentage.

ROCHESTER ORPHAN ASYLUM.

This institution was established in 1836, and is located at the city of Rochester. It is supported by charitable contribution and by appropriation from the State. Aside from this they draw from the School Fund at the rate of one dollar per capita. The number of orphans now in asylum is ninety-four; the average number is one hundred. These orphans are received between the ages of two and ten years, and are disposed of on arriving at suitable ages by adoption in families approved by the managers. They are instructed in the elementary branches of an English education. The school is occasionally visited by schools officers. Religious instruction is also imparted. In placing them out, as apprentices or by adoption, the managers reserve the right to re-take them if not well treated. To a considerable extent knowledge is had of the success and character of the children after leaving the asylum, and that has generally proved satisfactory. All at present in the asylum are of foreign birth. Three deaths have occurred during the past year and on an average one person has occupied the hospital.

Of the orphans two are blind and one is an idiot. The matron estimates that at least two-thirds of the children are brought to the asylum from the former and present intemperate habits of their parents. As attendants, including domestics, there are beside the matron six. The asylum is finely located; the rooms clean and well kept, and the children generally bright and healthy in appearance.

ROMAN CATHOLIC ORPHAN ASYLUM, OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN.

This institution was established in 1829 and is supported by revenues from real estate \$2,637.14, from the State \$3,336.75, and the residue from private donations. There are now under its care two hundred and five girls and ninety-five boys. They are received at ages ranging from three to twelve years, and dismissed from ten to fourteen years. They are not bound out by indenture but placed in families. While inmates of the asylum they are taught in the elementary branches of an English education. As to the success of the children after leaving the asylum the matron states, that accounts from and of the girls are usually satisfactory, but not so favorable of the boys. Two hundred and ninety-seven are of foreign, only three of American parentage. During the last year occurred two deaths. Connected with the

asylum is a day school, where are taught seven hundred girls and one hundred and fifty boys.

ROMAN CATHOLIC ORPHAN ASYLUM—NEW-YORK.

This asylum located in Prince street was opened in 1825, and has now two hundred and seventy-five girls under its care taught by fourteen ladies. It is supported by private donations together with assistance derived from the State. Children are received at three years of age and dismissed at twelve or thirteen, when they are bound out or placed in the families of their friends. The usual branches of common school education are taught, and the schools are inspected by the school officers. Two deaths have occurred the past year. All the orphans are children of foreign parents. Connected with this institution is an asylum for boys, located on the Fifth Avenue, under the charge of six ladies and having under its care three hundred and seventy-four boys. This branch participates in the State appropriation of \$4,500, paid to the Prince street asylum, and both receive aid from the board of education. The boys are indentured as suitable places are found, and are all of foreign parentage.

ST. JOSEPH'S MALE ORPHAN ASYLUM, BUFFALO.

This institution, located at Buffalo; was established in 1850, and is designed particularly for the accommodation of male orphans. It is supported by charitable contributions, appropriations from the State and aid from the Common School Fund. From the State was received last year the sum of \$1,024. Children are received at the age of five years and dismissed at twelve or fourteen. They are instructed in a common school education, and the school is inspected by school officers. On dismissal they are bound to trades and farming until of age, when by condition they receive three hundred dollars and a supply of clothing. The children are mostly of foreign parentage. The asylum is well located without the city, and the children have a healthy appearance. They now number sixty-four.

ST. JOHN'S BOYS ORPHAN ASYLUM—ALBANY.

This asylum was founded two years since and has now in charge sixty orphans. It is supported mainly by charity. What sums were received from the State, the managers were unable to state. There is no rule regarding the age at which children are received, and they are discharged whenever places may be obtained.

. ST. MARY'S ASYLUM—TROY.

One hundred and seven children; forty-nine girls and fifty-eight boys are under the care and charge of this institution. Established seven years since, it is mainly supported by private donations and assistance from the State. The last appropriation was of \$1,900. Aside from this, the city poor master last year paid toward the support of twenty children, one dollar per week, each. Aid is also received from the county superintendents.

Children are received between the ages of three and fourteen, and dismissed soon after arriving at the latter age. They are not bound by indenture, but placed in situations to remain as long as the parties may agree. Their course is pronounced generally satisfactory. At the asylum they are taught in the common English branches, and in addition to this, the boys instructed in gardening, and the girls in housekeeping. Nearly all are of foreign parentage. Attached to the asylum is a private pay school, where about three hundred children attend.

ST. VINCENT'S FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM—ALBANY.

This institution has been established for twelve years, and is supported by private charity and by appropriations from the State, which in 1855 was \$1,179. The present number of inmates is ninety-seven, and they are admitted at ages ranging from one to seven or eight. They are dismissed at the age of fourteen or fifteen years, when they are usually put out at wages. They are not bound as apprentices. While at the asylum the orphans are taught in the common branches of an English education, and in domestic duties. Their success after dismissal from the asylum has been usually satisfactory. Two thirds of the children are of foreign parentage.

ST. VINCENT'S FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM—BUFFALO.

This institution was established in 1848, and is designed only as a home for female orphans. It is supported by charity; by the proceeds of a day school, and by aid from the State. Last year there was received from the State \$733.37. Children are received at the age of two years and dismissed at ten or twelve. Sometimes they are kept until sixteen. They are instructed in the common English branches. The children are usually disposed of by adoption in families, under the direction of the institution, though sometimes bound out as apprentices. They are

reclaimed if ill-treated. Most of them are of foreign parentage. The number at present in asylum is sixty-four.

SYRACUSE HOME ASSOCIATION, SYRACUSE.

This institution, located at Syracuse, was established in 1851, and chartered in 1854; it is designed mainly as a house for poor and indigent females, and as a temporary residence for those without shelter and desiring employment. In this manner it is used as an intelligence office for the benefit equally of those desiring to obtain servants and those wishing situations; children also are received, being under the age of three years and over ten, between which ages they are cared for at the orphan asylum. No rule is adopted as to the time of their dismissal, but they are placed out whenever suitable opportunities present, being usually adopted in families, though sometimes bound out. In all these cases condition is made that the child shall be educated in habits of total abstinence. Their course after leaving the house has in most cases proved satisfactory. Two-thirds of them are of foreign parentage. While at the house they are instructed in the common English branches, and in industrial habits. One hundred and eighteen persons, of whom seventy-eight were adults and forty children, were admitted during the past year.

Under the direction of the association, on each Saturday afternoon, *industrial* or *ragged* schools are opened in several school houses of the city. At these schools boys and girls are taught in most common English branches, and are instructed in different kinds of work. It is said that very many girls are there taught to sew in such manner as to provide for their own support. About five hundred are taught in this manner.

The house has now about twenty-five inmates; it is supported by charitable contributions and appropriation from the State; no assistance is received from the Common School Fund; the last State appropriation was \$700. The institution is doing a good work, and the ladies of Syracuse, under whose control and direction it is, deserve great credit for the energy and ability with which they have carried on the work in which they are engaged.

HOMES FOR THE FRIENDLESS.

These institutions, of which there are three in the State, are designed principally to furnish homes and protection for destitute females, and are under the care and management of benevo-

lent women. These destitute women and children are received until suitable places of employment are found. While in the homes they are employed, the elder ones in needle-work, and the children are taught as in the asylums, and bound out at suitable ages. The institution in Syracuse and the one in New-York have also established ragged schools, finding employment and instructing children, who have no other instruction, in needle-work, and furnishing them clothing. It is believed that they are amongst the most useful of charitable institutions, partaking of the character of orphan asylums, and not less interesting in their benevolent objects; it is believed that they are equally entitled to the fostering care of the State.

ALBANY INDUSTRIAL HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS.

This institution is located in the city of Albany, and was established eleven years since; it is supported entirely by private charity. The managers state its objects to be to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and to serve as an intelligence office, furnishing good places of employment to the needy and destitute. Twenty-five aged females, from sixty-five to one hundred years of age, are here supported during the short remainder of their lives. Six of these are of foreign and nineteen of native birth.

TROY ORPHAN ASYLUM, TROY.

This asylum was founded twenty-two years since and has now in charge ninety-three orphans. It is supported by donations and by the State appropriations. No assistance is received from the Common School Fund. The last appropriation was of about \$1,210.

The children are received between the ages of three and nine years, and are dismissed at ten if an opportunity offers. They are at this latter age bound out to farmers until they reach the age of seventeen years. Their course after leaving has been eminently satisfactory. Over five hundred have been dismissed by the present matron during the past twenty-two years, and the managers have never known one to be imprisoned, or intemperate, and with few exceptions have been all that could be desired. While in the asylum they are instructed in all ordinary branches taught in common schools, and the school is regularly inspected by a committee of citizens appointed by the trustees.

On the fourth of July last the asylum was visited by eight former pupils; one was about to enter the ministry; another was

a physician; and all were prepared to enter life with great credit and promise of future usefulness.

SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF DESTITUTE CHILDREN OF SEAMEN.

This institution is located on Staten Island, and was first established in 1846, on the grounds of the Sailor's Snug Harbor, and near that institution. As its name indicates, it is designed for the relief and support of destitute children of seamen. Its support is derived from charitable contributions and appropriations from the State. The last sum received was \$1,875.75. The inmates at present number one hundred and twelve, and are received at ages varying from three to eight years. While in the asylum they are well taught in the usual branches of a common school education, and in various domestic employments. On arriving at suitable ages they are bound out to such pursuits as offer, and this year several have been sent to homes in Wisconsin. Five-sixths of the children are of foreign birth. The location is a healthy one; there are none in hospitals; and but two deaths have occurred since the establishment of the institution. The grounds comprise five acres and the play-grounds are ample.

III. LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

STATE LUNATIC ASYLUM AT UTICA.

This institution, established by the State, was opened for the reception of patients in January, 1843.

The farm, of which there are 135 acres of valuable and productive land, and buildings with the necessary stock, furniture, &c., cost the State to 1850, \$386,100. The building is a substantial stone edifice, capable of accommodating 450 patients, though a larger number is often received; the average number since the last report has been 453; the whole number of admissions during the same time, 220, and the number of deaths twenty-eight. The whole number received into the asylum since its opening in January, 1843, to October 31st, 1856, is 4,808, of whom 2,002 have recovered; 740 were discharged improved; 571 have died; 1,009 discharged unimproved; not insane twenty-three; remaining October 31st, 1856, 461. During the past year 167 have been refused admission.

It was unfortunate for the State that in a building where it was so much required, so little attention was paid in its construction to warming and ventilation. The importance of this is now too well understood to require any argument from the committee. The managers more than three years ago found it necessary to commence a plan which has been described in detail in reports to the Legislature for warming and ventilating the buildings; and the committee are satisfied the plan was judicious, and that it was required by a due regard to the health and comfort of the patients; and a reference to the recent reports of the superintendent it is believed will fully justify the course of the managers in the improvements they have undertaken.

The committee visited every part of the asylum, and saw all the inmates, their employments, amusements, &c., and witnessed the general treatment of the patients, and were pleased to find that

with more than 450 lunatics, and among them were twenty from the different State Prisons, and several of them had been convicted of murder, yet all were managed with kindness; irons, chains, hand-cuffs and shackles, so frequent in county poor houses, are here not known; some gentle restraint is sometimes used to prevent patients tearing their clothes, &c., but there were but two cases even of that kind among the whole number; and the management of the asylum and its inmates was highly satisfactory to the committee.

As connected with these visits to the county houses and to this asylum, a case is here mentioned to show the importance of the gentle treatment of lunatics as contrasted with the practice in those houses where mildness and kindness do not prevail.

In the month of April last, a young man of about twenty-one years of age, suddenly became insane, was sent to a county poor house, and immediately chained to the floor, where he remained a violent maniac to all appearance, and his malady increasing as his confinement continued. At last he became so violent from this treatment, that they could manage him no longer, even with chains and handcuffs, and in September he was taken to the asylum at Utica, with all his shackles upon him—his legs fastened together with the same rings and chains which he wore in his last abode, and these had become so tight and so rusted that they were cut off by filing, and the committee examined the irons soon after they were taken off in this way. When relieved from these, and the regulations of the asylum explained, and told that he would be kindly treated, he became perfectly calm, went to work on the farm the next morning, and he was seen by the committee after he had been there more than four weeks, in which time he has shown no symptom of violence, nor even required any care from the attendants; and there is every reason to suppose he will soon recover from his recent attack, and be restored to his friends; and it is quite certain he would have become a confirmed lunatic, had his harsh treatment been continued.

An examination of the improvements in progress and accounts of expenditures connected with them, satisfied the committee that the managers are entitled to credit for great faithfulness in the discharge of all their duties; that the money of the State has been judiciously expended, and that full confidence may be placed in their guardianship of the asylum, and in their protection of the

interests of the State as connected with an institution which, under their care, has become one of the first in the country, and has proved a blessing to many who have sought alleviation from the appalling and increasing disease which is desolating so many homes, and calling so loudly for sympathy and relief.

It is true that large sums have been expended in the purchase of the site and erection of the buildings for this asylum, but a comparison of the cost of similar institutions in other States, in reference to the number which each will accommodate, will show that there has been no improper expenditure in the erection of this.

From the books of the treasurer, and from estimates of the managers, the committee have obtained the following statement :

UTICA LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The total expenditures in the purchase of the site, construction of buildings, stocking, furnishing, heating, &c., from 1836 to 1850 is \$386,100; from October 1st, 1842 to 1st October, 1847, the annual appropriation for payment of salaries was \$5,500 and for five years \$27,500 dollars: of this sum was drawn \$20,219.22, leaving a balance not drawn of \$7,280.78. From 1847 to 1st October, 1856, \$47,750 was appropriated for salaries, of which \$46,499.70 was drawn, leaving a balance undrawn of \$1,250.30; excess of appropriations above the amount actually drawn for salaries \$8,531.08.

The receipts of the institution for the support of paupers from the counties, and for the support of private patients have been sufficient for all the ordinary expenses, and have enabled the managers in the last ten years, ending 1st October, 1856, to pay for furniture (exclusive of \$5,000 appropriated by the State) \$40,537.23, and they have also paid for repairs, additions and alterations, the sum of \$48,187.68 making together the sum of \$88,724.91.

The receipts from December 31 to 1st October, 1856, exclusive of receipts for salaries, and including a balance of \$3,268.78, of the previous years, have been \$86,623; and the amount paid out during the same period for ordinary expenses and for all the objects mentioned above is \$75,783.87, leaving a balance on hand of \$10,839.86, which it is supposed will be required for the payments of October and November.

There is due from the counties (up to the 1st August, 1856) \$19,584.44. The institution is free from debt, except for money advanced by the bank to enable it to proceed with the work for heating and ventilating, and the repairs connected with these improvements. A sum not yet ascertained is also due for pipes and boilers. It being deemed quite necessary to complete a portion of the work of ventilating, warming, &c., before the winter of '56 and '57, the sum of \$15,137 has been expended for that purpose, up to 1st October, 1856, in anticipation of the appropriation recommended by the committees of both houses of the Legislature of \$57,000, and was provided for in the general appropriation bill, which the Legislature adjourned without passing.

The weekly average cost of the maintenance of the patients for the year 1855 was three dollars and ninety cents for each, charging the whole expenses of the institution, (except officers salary received from the State,) including expenditures for furniture, ordinary repairs and clothing, and it is supposed the expenses for the current year will not vary much from the last.

BLOOMINGDALE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

A branch of the New-York Hospital was erected in 1821, and is located about five miles from the city of New-York. Accommodations are afforded for about two hundred patients. The present number is one hundred and forty; the average number for the year is one hundred and forty-two.

The asylum is situated in one of the most healthful and beautiful spots on the island and has annexed about forty acres of land, a portion of which is laid out in walks and gardens. The main building is particularly adapted to the residence and recovery of convalescent patients and those of a quiet disposition and orderly habits, being entirely devoted to these classes. Separate buildings are provided for the more violent. Since the 1st of January last thirty-nine have been discharged as cured; twenty-four improved; eleven not improved and fourteen have died: total discharged *ninety*. One hundred and thirty-eight are paying patients, and four pay nothing. The average monthly expense of the institution is \$3,152.41. But one physician is attached to the asylum; there are nine males and eleven females attendants. Religious services conducted by the chaplain are attended in the chapel each Sabbath.

The amount received from patients since the first of January last is \$33,720, and \$10,000 is annually appropriated by the State for its support. A library of several hundred volumes and a large list of magazines and newspapers afford opportunities for reading, and many other means of amusement and employment are provided.

A committee of the governors of the hospital visit and examine into the condition of the inmates with great regularity every week. Nothing appears to be neglected by the governors or the resident physician, which can add to the comfort of the patients, and the whole establishment was found by the committee in the most satisfactory condition.

It is found that fifty per cent of all received into the asylum are cured. Harsh treatment is avoided and even confinement in rooms is seldom resorted to. Only two were under restraint when the house was visited by the committee.



IV. THE INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.

INSTITUTION FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB,

Is prominent among those public charities which derive an annual support from the treasury of the State, and have been regarded with favor by the people. The committee deemed it to be within the proper scope of their duties to visit, and examine into the condition of this establishment. The period was an inopportune one for a full examination of the classes, as the school was in the midst of preparations for removal to the new buildings at Fanwood.

Public examinations and exhibitions of this school have been so frequently held before the Legislature that it will scarcely be necessary to enter into any detailed report of the mode of teaching or the result attained. It is sufficiently well known that no similar school has ever reached so high a place in the public estimation as for years past has been enjoyed by the one under notice. Pupils of destitute parents are received, under a selection by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, at the age of twelve years or upwards, and are educated and supported for the term of five years at the cost to the State of \$150 annually.

At the close of the first term of five years, on the recommendation of the directors for good conduct and capacity, the Superintendent is at liberty to continue pupils for two years longer. A high class was established some years since, into which pupils of superior acquisitions and great promise of usefulness, can be retained for instruction in the higher branches of knowledge for an additional term of two years. This class has, in its operation been found very successful, and some of the graduates have evinced capacity and accomplishments that would compare favorably with scholars endowed with all their faculties.

The committee, with the President and Professors, attended an examination of a portion of the classes, in the course of which the most satisfactory evidence was given of a thorough acquaintance on the part of the pupils, with the construction and meaning of language, the elements and principles of the several branches of knowledge usually taught in schools, and perfect readiness and capacity to converse by signs, and by the aid of written language. The progress made by classes of one and two years continuance was quite remarkable and full of interest, while the perfection of the system was fully established in the cases of those who had been benefited by a longer course of instruction.

In making the last annual report to the Legislature, a particular account was given of the sale of the property heretofore occupied by this Institution, showing that a net profit was realized of \$185,000. It was also shown that thirty-seven and a half acres of land had been purchased at Fanwood, about nine miles from the City Hall, for \$115,000, upon which the directors had paid \$35,000, and that it was mortgaged for the balance, \$80,000. The balance of the \$185,000 has been expended in the erection of buildings and improving the property at Fanwood. These buildings, now in an unfinished state, are substantial structures, capable of accommodating four hundred and fifty pupils when completed, besides affording sufficient room for teachers and their families.

Having expended all their funds in the erection of buildings, and incurred a considerable debt, the directors have not the means of completing them, and now propose to convey the property in fee to the State, should the Legislature see fit to appropriate the sum required for that purpose. In making this proposition, the directors submit the following statement:

The amount required to complete the buildings is.....	\$60,000
There is now due on account of buildings.....	118,850
Due on mortgage,.....	80,000

Am't required to complete buildings and pay mortgage,	<u>\$258,850</u>
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Value of real estate when buildings are completed:	
Cost of thirty-seven and a half acres of land,.....	\$115,000
Amount expended to the 1st of January, 1857,.....	364,000
Required to complete buildings as above,.....	60,000
	<u>\$539,000</u>

By this statement it will be seen that, to complete the buildings according to the original plan, and pay the mortgages upon the property and the amount of indebtedness incurred in erecting the buildings, two hundred and fifty-eight thousand, eight hundred and fifty dollars will be required ; and that the whole cost of the property when the buildings are completed will be five hundred and thirty-nine thousand dollars. It is also to be mentioned that towards the cost of the property first purchased at 50th street, and now sold, the State appropriated twenty-five thousand dollars, and in 1855, towards the erection of buildings at Fanwood, twenty-six thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars.

The committee do not feel called upon to recommend that the State should assume the debts of this Institution, complete the buildings, and thus make it an institution of the State, or to express any opinion respecting such proposal, but consider it their duty to communicate it to the Legislature that the subject may receive such consideration as it may be thought to require.

The whole number of pupils now on the rolls of the institution is three hundred and fourteen ; the largest number ever under instruction since its foundation. The committee found here a devoted and efficient body of professors and teachers, many of them of great skill and experience in the instruction of this interesting but unfortunate class ; and they are not advised that in this particular case any injury has resulted from the organization of the board of directors, by which the officer at the head of the instructors is placed at the board as the presiding officer of the directors ; but as a general rule, it is believed by the committee that the teachers who are always supposed to be employed by the directors, should in no case have a voice in their deliberations, or be in any degree accountable for the acts of those upon whom is supposed to rest the responsibility of conducting the financial affairs and business of a large institution, but that on the contrary they should be allowed to devote their undivided attention to the instruction of those over whom they are placed, and for whose improvement they are held accountable.

V. INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

NEW-YORK INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

This institution, established about twenty-five years ago, has now large and convenient buildings, in a healthy part of the city and has under its care one hundred and seventy blind children. One hundred and forty of these are State pupils. The average number for the year has been one hundred and seventy, and but a single death has occurred. Sixteen teachers are employed, ten of whom are blind. The annual expense of the establishment is represented to be \$30,000. One attending and three consulting physicians are attached to the institution. One-half of the inmates are children of foreigners. The boys are taught such trades as the blind are able to pursue and the girls instructed in needle-work. The system of teaching in the school appears well adapted to blind children and to be well conducted. The State pays \$180.00 for each child and the same is charged all paying pupils.

VI. HOSPITALS.

ALBANY CITY HOSPITAL.

This hospital is pleasantly and healthfully located on the corner of Howard and Eagle streets.

It is supported by donations from individuals, by appropriations from the State, by interest from a vested fund of about \$20,000, and from pay patients. It has received from the State in all, to 1855, \$10,817.

The institution has been established for five years, and in that time has treated 705 patients. Of these 412 were paupers. To pay patients there is a charge, in general ward, of \$3.50; in private room \$5. Of patients treated 545 were foreigners, and 160 Americans. Of the foreigners 425 were from Ireland.

Of the whole number 474 were males, and 231 females. Sixty-four deaths have occurred. No persons laboring under contagious diseases are admitted. In 1855 were 222 patients. The average weekly expense for patients is \$5.14. Average time patients remained in hospital during the year 1855 was five weeks and nineteen hours.

The present number of patients is twelve, of which number ten are foreigners.

The average number in the hospital is twenty-five.

In connection or attached to the hospital is the Albany dispensary, to support which the State has appropriated \$500 per year for the past three years. Here medicines and advice are administered gratuitous to the poor on application. The dispensary fronts on Howard street.

The hospital building is well and substantially built with modern improvements. It is well warmed and ventilated, and

appears to be well provided with all the usual appliances and conveniences calculated to secure the ends contemplated by the founders of the institution. It has a board of governors, four attending physicians and four attending surgeons, a resident physician and surgeon.

The labor of the attending physicians and surgeons is gratuitous, and would amount annually, if performed in private practice, at the usual rate of charges in Albany, to at least \$8,000.

It owes its existence to the untiring energy, active benevolence and labors of a few prominent citizens of Albany, among whom are several who are an honor to the medical profession, and to the human race.

It is a noble charity, well deserving the confidence and liberal contributions of the public, and the bounty of the State.

BROOKLYN CITY HOSPITAL.

The building for this hospital was erected in 1851, and was occupied early in 1853, and cost with the grounds eighty-four thousand dollars. There are ten physicians and surgeons attached to the hospital, and all serve without compensation. The number of patients is now seventy; the whole number received from the first of January to the first of October was four hundred and forty-one. The average expense of the support of each patient is \$3.50. There are now sixty-two paying patients, twelve of whom are paid for by the United States; fifty others paying three dollars per week. The appropriation by the city of Brooklyn in 1855 was \$1,000, and the amount received from the State was \$9,249.96. The institution owes nothing on account of buildings, and has a credit at one of the Brooklyn banks for \$7,000.00, secured by notes of the corporation on demand, which enables it to meet the current monthly expenses, which are only incurred upon the principle of cash payments. The building is two hundred feet long and is placed about one hundred feet from the street, from which it is raised twenty feet, and is located in one of the most healthful and pleasant spots in the city. Its interior arrangements are good, well lighted and well ventilated, and does credit to all concerned in establishing and conducting it.

BUFFALO HOSPITAL OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.

This hospital was incorporated February 3d, 1849. It is located in a high, healthy part of the city, with very good arrangements

for ventilation. The corporation own three lots of ground which gives them the control of the surrounding space, and which will insure the hospital against encroachment from other buildings. This building is of brick, 170 feet front, $49\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, three stories high, with a basement which is occupied as a kitchen, work-room, bakery, cellar and for other domestic purposes. The number of patients at the time of our visit was seventy.

They have four attending surgeons and four attending physicians, who attend alternately during the year, all of whose services are rendered gratuitously. The amount of such services thus annually rendered by the medical profession of Buffalo, at the ordinary charges for such labor in private practice, would not be less than \$6,000. A very liberal and noble offering from the medical gentlemen of Buffalo for the relief of the poor and needy.

Of the patients received in this hospital during the year 1855, there were of foreign birth 986, American 205.

The number of patients with the current receipts for the year ending January 1, 1856, are as follows :

Received from Commissioners of Emigration for attendance on emigrant patients,	246,	\$5,796 98
Do do for marine patients,.....	116,	1,482 21
Deposits made by patients,	281,	1,498 78
do Erie county,.....	106,	761 07
do City of Buffalo,.....	82,	798 78
do Charity patients,	330,	.....
do Private patients,.....	30,	719 88
do from the State,.....		10,648 98
	1,191	\$21,706 68
Deduct from this the sum received from Commissioners of Emigration due in 1854,.....	...	997 25
Total income,		<u>\$20,709 43</u>

A large number of out-door patients have been supplied gratuitously from the dispensary attached to the hospital, not only

with medicine but with food, of none of which any account has been kept.

The disbursements since the foundation of the hospital may be seen by the annexed appendix. No report has ever been made to the Legislature. Your committee are of opinion that every hospital, as well as every other institution receiving aid from the State, should render a strict account annually of the monies received and disbursed.

Attached to this hospital is an asylum for lying-in-women and foundlings, under the same government, established in June, 1854. The number assisted in this institution to January, 1856 were seven widows, sixty-four lying-in-women and forty-nine foundlings. They have commenced and partially erected a suitable building for their accommodation; at present having to occupy several small buildings adjoining each other.

The expense thus far incurred for the support of the inmates, has mostly been met by donations and remunerations for various services.

The expense thus far incurred in the erection of the building has been by loans.

This is a charity well deserving the fostering care of the State, as well as the liberal contributions of a benevolent public.

Receipts and expenditures of Buffalo Hospital of Sisters of Charity, from its commencement, August, 1848, to September 1, 1856.

Am't cash collected in Buffalo for hospital,.....	\$980 00
donations from sundry persons,	300 00
proceeds of fair,.....	1,006 00
collected by Rt. Rev. Dr. Timon,	3,100 00
State appropriation,	9,000 00
donation from Rt. Rev. Dr. Timon,	2,600 00
from patients,	2,666 00
	<hr/>
	\$19,652 00
	<hr/>

(In 1848 and 1849.)

By first purchase of lots,	\$3,700 00
Other lots,	3,375 00
First repairs,	1,300 00
First addition,	1,700 00
Second addition,	5,400 00
Building dead house,	200 00
Provisions, beds, furniture and medicines,	9,192 00
Window blinds,	350 00
Servants' wages for two years,	600 00
	<hr/>
	\$25,817 00
	19,652 00
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$6,165 00

(1849 to Dec. 1, 1850.)

Am't cash proceeds of fair,	\$1,400 00
Commissioners of Emigration, N.Y.,	1,491 00
Patients,	1,944 72
Medical students,	365 31
Board of house student,	134 00
Donations from sundry persons,	175 00
Jenny Lind's concert,	200 00
County supervisors,	500 44
Commissioners of Emigration, N.Y..	340 00
	<hr/>
	\$6,550 52
By balance from last year,	\$6,165 00
Medicines,	655 23
Provisions,	3,675 13
Wood and coal,	400 00
Clothing of nine sisters,	450 00
Furniture and beds,	595 70
Repairs of building,	380 72
Servants' wages,	302 00
Insurance,	50 00
Additional lots,	1,132 74
	<hr/>
	\$13,828 02
	6,550 52
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$7,277 50

(1852.)

Am't cash State appropriation,	\$14,480	11
Commissioners of Emigration,	3,646	75
Patients,	1,700	34
County supervisors,	805	34
Custom house for marines,	307	95
Medical students,	445	93
Donation from Rt. Rev. Dr. Timon,	1,823	00
Donations from sundry persons,	2,488	50

\$25,697 92

By balance from last year,	\$7,277	50
Provisions and flour,	3,539	84
Beds, bedding and dry goods,	534	28
Medicines, articles for the use of apothecary,	1,728	28
Repairs and painting,	321	62
Clothing of twelve sisters and some poor,	766	57
Servants' wages,	750	21
Wood and coal,	695	82
Funeral expenses,	148	75
Local taxes,	53	64
Additional lots,	8,995	00
Different items,	300	00
Building,	1,941	00
Small expenses, repairing fences, &c.,	374	00

\$34,757 01

25,697 92

Balance, \$9,059 09

(1853 and 1854.)

Am't cash State appropriation,	\$11,711	18
Commissioners of Emigration,	2,671	29
Patients,	1,977	93
Custom house for marines,	534	50
Medical students,	261	40
Donations from sundry persons,	2,179	10

\$19,335 40

By balance from last year,	\$9,059 09
Provisions and flour,	3,966 27
Beds, bedding and dry goods,	913 31
Repairs and improvements,	613 72
Local and lamp taxes,	238 45
Wood and coal,	639 00
Horse, wagon, &c.,	506 00
Furnace and fixings,	841 52
Medicines, &c.,	646 40
Clothing of thirteen sisters,	659 00
Insurance, \$50; bedsteads, &c., \$300,	350 00
Cottage lots,	2,000 00
Additional lots,	1,657 00
Water-works,	44 45
Four cows and sundry expenses,	623 00
Servants' wages,	391 30
Funeral expenses,	256 38
Furniture, delf and glasswares,	1,393 00

\$27,568 89

19,335 40

Balance, \$8,233 49

(From Jan. 1 to Sept. 1. 1855.)

To cash	State appropriation,	\$10,648 98
	Commissioners of Emigration, N.Y.,	3,446 33
	Patients,	1,752 20
	County supervisors,	473 04
	Custom house for marines,	1,317 17
	Medical students,	82 00
	Donations from sundry persons,	2,424 85

\$20,144 57

By balance from last year,	\$8,233 49
Provisions and flour,	6,716 88
Repairs, painting, &c.,	1,172 01
Furniture, dry goods, &c.,	1,213 84
Clothing of thirteen sisters,	650 00
Servants' wages,	525 25

Carried forward, \$18,521 47

Brought forward,.....	\$18,521 47
By coal, partly from last year,	1,290 29
Wood,	359 06
Taxes and insurance,.....	149 65
Lots,.....	2,332 44
Large cooking stoves, &c.,.....	331 00
Funeral expenses,	200 00
Medicines, &c.,.....	500 00
Carpenter-work, whitewashing, &c.,	300 58
	<hr/>
	\$23,974 49
	20,144 57
	<hr/>
Balance,	\$3,829 92

(Sept. 1, 1855, to Sept. 1, 1856.)

To am't cash State appropriation,	\$10,069 00
Commissioners of Emigration,.....	3,706 62
Patients,	1,400 00
Custom house for marines,.....	1,250 99
County supervisors,	2,106 41
Donations from sundry persons,	694 00
	<hr/>
	\$18,622 02

By amount for lots to enlarge the grounds for convalescent patients,.....	\$2,535 85
Building,.....	2,600 00
Taxes,	58 63
Hydrant water,	63 61
Coal bill last year, paid in Sept.,	638 29
Do of this year,	705 00
Insurance,	77 50
Fencing, repairs, painting, &c.,	531 11
Advertisements,.....	20 50
Wood,	506 13
Medicines and articles for apothecary,	745 38
Beds, bedding and dry goods,	980 07
Clothing for the sisters,	650 00
Repairing furnaces, hardware, &c.,	687 18
Servants' wages,.....	643 96
	<hr/>
Carried forward,.....	\$11,443 21

Brought forward,.....	\$11,443 21
Delfware,	53 04
Soap bill,.....	108 34
Feed (hay, &c.),.....	278 95
Ice, during the summer,.....	36 74
Flour,	2,405 41
Meat,	1,565 05
Vegetables and fruit,.....	251 88
Groceries, &c.,	1,806 03
	<hr/>
	\$17,948 65
	18,622 02
	<hr/>
Balance on hand Sept. 1, 1856,	\$673 37
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SISTER CAMILLA O'KEEFE.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

Under the act for the incorporation of charitable and religious societies, a number of benevolent ladies associated about three years ago for the purpose of taking charge of the children of poor women, who were compelled to leave their homes during the day to seek employment to enable them to support themselves and those dependant upon them. Children, whose mothers had died in giving them birth, were also received and provided for by nurses in the institution, and thus saved from the alms house. A greater number than the society were able to accommodate asked for admission; and last year two hundred and sixty-seven children and one hundred and twenty-two women were benefited by this charity, nearly all of whom, during their residence there, required medical treatment. Mothers with infants, without a home, of good character, were received and places provided for most of them, and their children kept here at a small charge while the mother was enabled to obtain high wages in other parts of the city. Destitute, neglected and deformed children, far gone for want of proper care, were never refused admission, and often raised from an almost hopeless condition to a healthy state. It was soon found desirable to establish a hospital for the treatment of the sick children apart from those in health, and a small one was provided for the purpose, the benefits of which have been apparent the last summer, when a large number were attacked with scarlet fever; every one of whom recovered, and by this separation the others escaped the disease. The hospital is found

quite too limited in its accommodations, and it is in contemplation to build one of suitable dimensions, where the society may be enabled to receive all destitute children who need hospital treatment, and which it is not to be supposed this class can find elsewhere.

The mortality in this institution is found to be about twenty per cent., which is less than in the foundling hospitals of Paris and other cities in France. The managers of this charity are assisted in their work by a board of eight distinguished physicians, some of whom are in daily attendance at the hospital, and all are serving without compensation.

It is understood the corporation of the city will give the grounds required as soon as the means are provided for the erection of the hospital; and they have already shown their estimation of the institution, by appropriating two hundred and fifty dollars towards its support. The Howard Association, of New Orleans, upon being acquainted with its objects, also sent a liberal donation for its encouragement and assistance. Large donations have been made by the citizens for the support of the institution, and upon these it must depend for current expenses hereafter; and it is supposed for this purpose they will be continued; but for carrying out the objects of the association, and providing a suitable Children's Hospital, larger means are required than the managers can at present command.

MARSHALL INFIRMARY, TROY.

This institution was incorporated in 1851, and the hospital building was finished in 1854. A large proportion of the whole expense of its erection was defrayed by Mr. Benjamin Marshall, to whom it owes its origin.

The entire cost of grounds and building was \$35,000.00. There was received from the State last year \$1,322.94 and from pay patients \$1,200. It has now twenty-three inmates, twenty of whom are paying and three non-paying patients. The average number of patients for the year is thirty, and there are accommodations for seventy-five. This hospital has four attending physicians and surgeons, with a resident physician and surgeon. The whole number treated during the past year not ascertained. The value of gratuitous services rendered annually by the attending physicians and surgeons, at the usual rate of charges in private practice cannot be less than \$2,000.00.

Private patients pay from two to five dollars per week. The expenses of the hospital last year were \$7,195.00, and it is now in debt \$1,500.00. For its support Mr. Marshall contributes \$1,500.00 annually, and the balance is made up by private subscription.

The building is one hundred and twenty feet long, three stories and basement, and built of brick, with high ceilings. It is well ventilated; warmed by stoves, and the whole kept in the best order.

Four attending and one house physician are employed. A most valuable addition is making to this institution in the erection of a building of two hundred feet long by forty wide, and capable of accommodating seventy-five *insane* patients, who will be placed under the charge of the able medical staff now attached to the hospital.

NEW YORK HOSPITAL.

This institution is located on Broadway, between Duane and Worth streets. It was chartered by the Provincial Legislature in June, 1771. The charter committed the government of the institution to twenty-six governors, who held their first meeting in July, 1771.

In 1772 the Provincial Legislature granted in aid of the hospital, the annual allowance of \$2,000 for twenty years.

In 1773 the foundation of the hospital buildings was laid, 27th July. In February, 1775, when the building was nearly completed, it was accidentally nearly consumed by fire. In March the same year, the Legislature granted the sum of \$10,000 to enable them to rebuild their house. During the revolution, the unfinished buildings were used for barracks by the British and Hessian soldiers.

It was not completed and fitted for the reception of patients until 1791. It struggled on, occasionally receiving aid from the State, until 1806, when an act was passed directing the sum of \$12,500 to be paid to the hospital for fifty years, which term will expire in May, 1857.

The buildings are of stone, and with the recent additions, made by the governors at an expense of \$140,000, contributed by the

benevolent citizens of New York, provide ample room for the accommodation of as many patients as can safely be congregated in one establishment.

The arrangements for heating and ventilation are constructed on the most approved modern plans, and render the buildings and wards at once comfortable and healthy. They were all visited by the committee, who found the establishment located on the highest grounds in the city, overlooking all the surrounding buildings, purified by a broad expanse of water, well laid out grounds, with walks and trees, large wards with high ceilings, and plain walls, well ventilated and heated; iron bed-steads, clean bed clothes, and perfect cleanliness throughout the whole of the buildings. Pure air, pure water, good and suitable food, good nursing, with appropriate medical attendance, rendering, in our opinion, this institution equal if not superior to any in this or any other country. The labors in overseeing this establishment on the part of the governors, is entirely gratuitous. They are required to meet monthly, and a committee of that body to visit the hospital twice each week, and oftener when necessary. Many of these worthy men have thus served the public from ten to forty years, with no other remuneration, than the satisfaction of having ministered to the wants of the sick, and like the good Samaritan, "poured oil and wine into the wounds" of the poor and diseased.

Since the opening of this institution in 1791, to January, 1856, 106,111 patients have been admitted to this hospital. Of this number, 77,390 have been discharged cured, and 4,768, as much relieved. Out of the whole number, 10,893 have died, very many of whom were brought into the hospital in a dying condition, from casualties in the city. Deducting these, and the ratio of deaths will not much exceed five and a half per cent., a larger ratio of cures than is recorded of any hospital in Europe.

More than two-thirds of all the admissions are poor, and receive every necessary attendance, board, &c., gratuitously. There are four physicians and six surgeons who attend the hospital. They are selected from the most eminent of the profession, and are appointed annually, by the governors. One physician is required to visit every medical patient afflicted with acute disease at least once a day, and oftener if necessary; and every medical patient of every description must be visited twice every week. Two surgeons must visit the hospital, at least, three times every week, and every surgical patient once a week.

The physicians and surgeons perform these services gratis; the amount of which services, if performed in private practice, at the usual rates of charges in the city, would be not less than \$30,000 annually. And the amount of gratuitous services rendered by the medical profession, in the public hospitals alone, in the city of New York, would exceed \$100,000 annually. The whole number of medical and surgical gentlemen attending the hospital is twenty-one. The list of these officers, for seventy years past, abundantly proves that there has never been any necessity of pecuniary inducements, in addition to higher and distinguished motives, to obtain the services of learned and skillful men; a fact highly honorable to the medical profession of the city.

Situated as that institution is, in the heart of this great city, on its greatest thoroughfare, where thousands pass its doors every hour, yet how few are aware of the sickness and suffering relieved within its walls every day, through the silent, unostentatious labors of a few men. Men, too, of the highest character, learning, and ability, the country can boast of. All this done, too, without fee or reward, except the heart-felt gratification of having relieved human suffering from pain and disease, and enabling them to go forth and enjoy the blessings of health and cheerfulness.

Since the last annual report, 2203 patients have been admitted to the hospital, which, added to the number then on hand, (226) making in all 2429 received since the 1st of January, 1856. The largest number treated at one time is 308. Of the 2203 admitted since January, 733 were cases of casualties, received in and about the city. Of the whole number (2429) under treatment since January, 226 have died; on 72 of which the coroner held inquests. The cost of support for each patient is \$4.32 per week. The charge to those able to pay is \$3.00 per week. The only resources possessed by the governors, other than pay from patients, is \$472.36 annually.

The indebtedness of the governors for the construction of the new building is \$60,000. When we reflect upon the fact that over 83,000 human beings have been cured or materially relieved, through the gratuitous labors of the officers and governors of this institution, since its establishment, it should call forth our grateful thanks.

NEW YORK OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

This institution was incorporated by an act of the Legislature April 21, 1852, and commenced the reception of patients May 25, 1852. The buildings occupied for hospital purposes are located on Stuyvesant street, near 3d Avenue. Since its opening in 1852, the attending physicians and surgeons have assiduously pursued the best system of treatment for the great variety of cases that have presented themselves for their counsel. The result has been very satisfactory, not only to the patients themselves, but also to the patrons and officers of the institution, and the public. The officers are deserving much credit for their faithfulness and untiring industry in attending all who present themselves, most of whom have been attended without any charge, thus adding another to the free institutions of the city for the relief of the sick poor.

In addition to the regular daily attendance on those calling for aid, the surgeons of this hospital give annually a course of lectures on diseases of the eye, which was attended by more than fifty students the last term. The whole fees arising from this source are devoted to the interests of the institution, in hopes thus, with donations, to be able to erect a suitable building for their better accommodation.

The institution is in a flourishing condition, and its usefulness encourages its patrons in the belief of its necessity, and its ultimate success. The number of admissions since January 1, 1856, 987; remaining in hospital at that date, 80; whole number treated, 1067, a very large per cent. of whom have been discharged cured. Whole number treated since the opening of the institution in May, 1852, 4,619. The amount of labor gratuitously performed by the surgeons of this hospital annually, in attendance on the above number of cases, would, at a fair value, amount to at least \$8,000.

MARINE HOSPITAL, STATEN ISLAND.

The marine hospital at Quarantine, Staten Island, was visited by your committee in October last. This institution, as is well known, constitutes a most essential department of the quarantine establishment of the port of New-York; and it is one of the largest hospitals in the State. It comprises eleven distinct buildings devoted to wards for the sick and for persons in quarantine; and besides the hospital edifices, there is a large number of other

buildings devoted to the various purposes of the quarantine establishment.

All officers and employees of the Marine hospital, together with the health officer and his subordinates, reside within the quarantine inclosure, as required by law.

Of the thirty acres of land originally purchased by the State for quarantine purposes, five acres are occupied by the United States government, agreeably to the cession made by the State of New-York, in the year 1800. Complete jurisdiction of the grounds, however, is accorded to the State officers, so far as relates to any rights or questions affecting quarantine and the public health.

The visit of your committee to this institution was made immediately after the prevalence of yellow fever, and before the wards devoted to the sick with that disease were closed for the season.

At the time of our visit, cases of Asiatic cholera were being received from German emigrant vessels, and we observed that the physician-in-chief required that these, as well as other classes of patients affected with pestilential maladies should be kept isolated from each other, as well as from the convalescent and those sick with milder diseases.

This, he informed us, seemed to be essential to the safety of the several classes of patients.

We observed that in the wards devoted to yellow fever, typhus and small pox, ample provision was made for perfect ventilation and scrupulous attention paid to cleanliness. And for these important conditions, the temporary and cheaper edifices are preferred to the larger and more costly structures, which were erected many years ago, and are deficient in every requisite for sanitary purposes.

Happily adapted to sanitary purposes as are the grounds of the Marine hospital, we observed that the only supply of water for the establishment is by wells and cisterns, and that there could be, of course, no sewerage. This must certainly be regarded as a great disadvantage to the institution, and one which should be remedied if the present quarantine station is retained.

At the date of our visit, there were about one hundred and fifty patients in the hospital. The institution is kept in readiness for the reception of one thousand persons at any time, and a much larger number can be temporarily accommodated. During the months of May and June of the past year there were at times upwards of fifteen hundred persons at once under care and observation in the hospital. This is the largest number which can be provided for at one time in the various hospital buildings.

The total number of patients admitted to the Marine hospital is not so large as the number of persons placed there for observation, from vessels presumed to be infected.

The whole number of sick persons admitted to the institution during the first nine months preceding our visit, was one thousand two hundred and twenty-three; and the whole number of persons temporarily detained on the quarantine grounds, under medical observation, had been for the same period two thousand four hundred and twenty-one.

The medical staff of the marine hospital consists of the physician-in-chief, Elisha Harris, M. D., and one assistant, Theo. Walser, M. D.

The number of nurses varies from ten to twenty, and the whole number of persons employed in all departments, including the chaplains, sexton, patrol, &c., amounts to about forty.

The physician-in-chief, who is appointed by the Governor and Senate, is ex-officio superintendent of the hospital and grounds, and is seldom absent from the establishment.

The legal care and trusteeship of the Marine hospital devolves upon the Commissioners of Emigration; but the chief physician is responsible for all that concerns the sanitary interests and management of the institution, and for this purpose the State has endowed this officer with sufficient power to control the internal affairs of the establishment.

The laws regulating the various offices and duties at quarantine seem to be well arranged, and so far as we learned, the existing system and the present officers work very harmoniously and very successfully.

TROY HOSPITAL.

This institution is under the control of a board of trustees, Rev. Peter Havermans, president. This hospital has been built six years, has a front of seventy feet by about forty deep, and is constructed of brick. Accommodations are afforded for fifty four patients. The average number in charge is about thirty; at the present time (September 18,) there are thirty-six. The charge per week is \$1.50 and \$2.00 from emigrants. There are now three private patients who pay three dollars, and four or five who pay nothing. The whole number treated the last year is 350. The value of medical and surgical services in the treatment of the 350 cases, and rendered by them gratuitously, which if done in private practice at the usual rate of charges in Troy, would not be less than \$2,000. No report made to the Legislature from this hospital.

The yearly expense of the hospital exclusive of repairs, is not more than \$5,000. \$4,150, was received from the State last year, and the institution has no other income except as derived from pay patients and private donations. It has now a debt of about \$3,000. The building is warmed by furnaces and well ventilated. Two physicians are employed. A pest house is much needed. The committee learned that a family of five persons were just recovering from the small-pox, who during their sickness were placed in a building near and on the same lot with the hospital, and within a short distance of which were many dwelling-houses, and two orphan asylums with a large number of children in each. The safety of the immediate neighborhood and the inmates of the hospital at least, require that there should be provision made against similar danger. The attendants here are sisters of charity who devote themselves to the care of the inmates.

WOMAN'S HOSPITAL.

This institution has not as yet received the patronage of the State, but as an application has been made for aid from the funds of the State for its support, the committee visited this with other charities of the city of New York. This institution is of recent origin. Its first official acts go no further back than February, 1855. The interest felt by your committee in the permanent establishment of this charity will justify a brief notice of its origin and objects.

The buildings now occupied for hospital purposes are located on Madison avenue. This charity was started by a few benevolent women of the city, for the express purpose of benefiting their unfortunate, suffering sisters. To the humane, devoted and intelligent labors of these ladies it owes its existence, and was got up for the benefit of a class of women who are wives and mothers, who are in one of the most deplorable conditions possible to conceive of. They have the sole management, government and responsibility of its support. This is as it should be. Who but *woman* can sympathize with a sister suffering under the loathsomeness of injuries incurred during the most trying scenes of her life, and which this hospital has so successfully relieved? This, too, is one of the missions of mercy suitable for woman growing out of the benevolence of our holy religion. Who ever heard of a woman hospital, or even a hospital of any kind, where the Bible is unknown?

“No heathen nation ever had a hospital.” No! provisions for the poor, the blind, the insane, the deaf and dumb, the orphan, or any other ill that “flesh is heir to,” exist; only where the benign influence of christianity is known. We rejoice that the christian women of New York have taken this matter into their hands.

Another inducement for starting this charity at this time was that a discovery had recently been made for the radical cure of a disease hitherto deemed by the best medical authorities as almost or nearly incurable. Prior to this discovery surgery could do but little or nothing for this formidable difficulty. All the best surgeons of Europe, numerous, learned and skillful as they certainly are, and much as they have done for suffering humanity, have accomplished very little in this disease. It was reserved for an American surgeon to make the discovery that marks an era in our medical science. To Dr. J. Marion Sims, a native of South Carolina, but now a resident of New York, belongs the honor of this discovery.

Doctor S., like many other discoverers who have blessed our world with their labors, incurred many discouragements before he firmly established his mode of operation on a sure foundation. After repeated disappointments and failures—after more than twenty operations on one individual, and repeatedly on others, though discouraged, yet not disheartened—with an untiring ener-

gy and zeal, his genius, his persevering industry and unconquerable enthusiasm finally surmounted all difficulties, and he now stands the honored discoverer of one of the most noble and useful operations that has blessed our race.

These severe trials and often failures, the anxiety attendant on his arduous labors, mental as well as physical, so impaired his health that he was obliged to seek a more northern latitude, as a field for his future labors. On taking up his abode in the city of New-York, he was cordially welcomed by the leading medical gentlemen of that city, many of whom have given their influence and pecuniary assistance in aid of his great project. Thus with the benevolence and zeal of Dr. Sims, and the arduous and benevolent labors of a few ladies, was laid the foundation of the woman's hospital of the city of New-York. The result of the first year's labors has been such as to greatly encourage its patrons and friends, assuring them that still greater good may be accomplished with enlarged means and better accommodations.

All the resources for the support of the establishment since its opening, have been derived from private donations, with the exception of the sum of \$2,500 donated by the city authorities, and \$288.18 from pay patients; a very large majority of the patients are too poor to pay anything. The whole amount of expense incurred during the year was \$5,989.23. Income from all sources \$4,512.33, leaving a deficiency of \$1,476.90. Sixty-one patients have been admitted to treatment. Of these twenty-one have been discharged perfectly cured, and all that remain on hand with one exception are curable, and in that one case, her sufferings have been greatly alleviated. In addition to this many out-door patients have been cured, or greatly relieved. When we reflect that all these were wholly incurable until the formation of the woman's hospital, we may begin to realize how great a boon it confers on suffering humanity.

Patients have entered this hospital from all parts of the State and even from remote parts of the Union to seek relief, and through the smiles of a kind Providence they have been restored to health and to all the enjoyments of domestic life, and gone their way home gratefully rejoicing. One case has entered its walls which had previously been under treatment, without benefit, in Gray's, and St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas' hospitals, London, also from various hospitals in our own country. This

sad case has been *cured* in the New-York Woman's hospital. Surely this gives its patrons hope for future success, and ample grounds for renewed encouragement.

The number of patients in the hospital at the time of our visit was thirty-five, mostly poor foreigners. The amount of pay received weekly from them all was only \$9.00. All other expenses for attendance, board, &c., gratuitous.

VII. DISPENSARIES.

The committee have visited all the dispensaries which have been assisted by the State, except one in the city of Buffalo, which was closed during the summer to be opened again when its aid is required as the winter approaches. A particular description of each is attached to this report, and will be found in the appendix of all, except that in Buffalo and one in Albany, which is mentioned in connection with the Albany hospital, to which it is attached.

These institutions are principally established in large towns and cities, where they are needed, to afford that gratuitous aid which the poor always require. There are nine in the State, all formed upon the same general plan, and having for their object the same benevolent work. They render important service to those whose health is their only capital, and by affording timely assistance to those whose poverty prevents them from obtaining that immediate medical aid which their condition might require; and which, by neglect, would render them permanently unable to support those who are dependent upon them. Accessible at all times to the poor man, quiet and unpretending in their work, they attract little attention from the public. So administering their charities as to deprive poverty of the sting of humiliation, they are hardly known, except to those who partake of their benefits, and to those who participate in their management.

It will be seen that each institution is provided with a numerous board of physicians and surgeons, many of whom serve without compensation, and that not only medicine is dispensed when required, but that medical advice is also given; physicians being always in attendance to prescribe for those who apply, and to visit at their houses those who are unable to come to the dispensary; and also that physicians are sent to the public schools to offer vaccination to all who will receive it. It will also be seen

that these institutions annually prescribe for and assist more than one hundred and twenty-five thousand persons, and of these twenty thousand six hundred and twenty-nine were visited at their dwellings; and that the appropriations of the State towards their support has never, in any one year, exceeded seven thousand seven hundred dollars. Inconsiderable as these appropriations have been, when compared with the beneficial results of this wide spread charity, they are most important in sustaining these institutions, and large individual donations in addition are annually required to enable them, with all their economy, to afford that relief to the destitute which is not provided elsewhere.

The committee obtained from five dispensaries accurate statements of their operations for one year, which show that out of one hundred and two thousand nine hundred and eighty-four patients assisted in 1855, thirty-two thousand four hundred and ninety-three were of American birth, and seventy thousand four hundred and ninety-one of foreign origin; and that the average cost of medicine and attendance for each patient was sixteen and a half cents, and no more; and when the amount of means at the disposal of these institutions is considered in reference to the benefits conferred, it is believed that the charity of the State, or the donations of individuals, could not have been better bestowed.

BROOKLYN DISPENSARY.

This dispensary last year assisted five thousand four hundred and five persons, (including four hundred and thirty vaccinations) of whom three thousand seven hundred and sixty-one were foreigners; and for the month of August this year five hundred and thirty-four, of which number three hundred and fifty-nine were foreigners.

Its annual expenses are \$1,687.02, of which sum \$1,000 was received from the State, and the balance from private subscription. The institution owed nothing on the first of January last. There are six physicians attached to the dispensary who serve without compensation.

WILLIAMSBURGH DISPENSARY

Was established in 1851. Since its last report, first of February last it has assisted three thousand and ninety-eight patients, two-thirds of whom were natives of foreign countries. Seven physicians are attached to the dispensary, and all serving without

compensation. An apothecary is the only officer receiving a salary. The expenses last year were \$1,099.84. Some assistance has been received from the corporation, and the last appropriation by the State was \$700. On the first of February the cash on hand was \$1,134.56—\$1,099.84 of which was on interest in the savings bank. The building does not afford the room required for receiving and treating the applicants for medical advice and assistance. The private subscriptions for the support of the dispensary in 1855 were eighty-seven dollars.

NEW-YORK DISPENSARY, WHITE, CORNER OF CENTRE STREET.

This dispensary, established in the year 1790, was the first institution of the kind in the city. It is now annually relieving and assisting about forty thousand patients, and has vaccinated since its last report three thousand,—expenses for medicines alone \$1,500 every year, and is now assisting four thousand every month; employs six visiting physicians, who are paid a small salary; two house and ten consulting physicians, who serve without compensation.

The institution has generally received \$1,000 yearly from the State, and the balance required for its support is derived from private donations. Its location renders it accessible to the poor of all classes—to emigrants and others requiring dispensary aid. Its expenses are larger, and its operations more extended, than those of any other similar institution in the city. Out of thirty-nine thousand five hundred and fifty-four patients last year, only ten thousand and ninety, were born in the United States.

DEMILT DISPENSARY—CITY OF NEW-YORK.

This institution, established about five years ago, is now assisting 2,000 persons monthly, two-thirds of whom are foreigners, and has vaccinated from the first of March last 2,100 cases. It is conducted at an annual expense of \$5,500; has an income from real estate of \$1,875, receives from the State \$1,000, from the corporation of the city \$1,000 and the balance is supplied by private subscriptions. Two visiting physicians are employed and fourteen attending physicians. The report of last year shows the number of patients attended to be 20,004, of whom 11,870 were natives of Ireland and 829 of other foreign countries, 7,305 were born in the United States.

EASTERN DISPENSARY, NEW-YORK.

This dispensary was established in 1832, and last year prescribed for 25,612 patients, 3,525 of these were visited and treated at their dwellings. The number of vaccinations since last report in February 1856, is 3,908. Four consulting physicians and surgeons, five attending and district physicians, one house and vaccine, and five assistant attending and district physicians are attached to the dispensary. About \$600 is annually expended for medicine ; six attending physicians and an apothecary and an assistant receive small salaries; this is all done at an expense of \$2,900. Except what is received from the legislative appropriation and from the common council of the city, the funds for its support are derived from individual donations.

NORTHERN DISPENSARY OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

Since the last report on the first of January last, 8,550 patients have been assisted, of whom 5,085 were foreigners, 3,256 were under fifteen years of age, and more than one-half of these were children of foreign parents. Three visiting and one vaccine physician, an apothecary and assistant apothecary are employed, whose united salaries amount to \$2,200 per annum ; and fourteen attending physicians without compensation, one of whom has given his services for more than twenty-eight years. This dispensary is supported by private donations and by interest (\$42⁰⁰) on an investment, \$1,000 from the State and the same sum from the corporation of the city, but was last year compelled to borrow \$800. The annual expenses are \$3,844, \$570 of which is paid for medicine.

The vaccine physician is required to visit all the schools in the dispensary district, and to vaccinate all who desire it ; and also every house where it is supposed the inmates will receive gratuitous vaccination, and vaccine virus is furnished without charge to every physician in the State who will apply for it.

This dispensary has now been established twenty-nine years, and shows by its register that it has prescribed for 119,746 native citizens and 168,020 foreigners, making together 287,744.

NORTHWESTERN DISPENSARY, IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

For the year ending the 1st day of October, 1856, this dispensary has prescribed for and assisted 11,269 patients. Out of 8,780

prescribed for at the dispensary, 4,799 were foreigners; 358 have been vaccinated. Three district physicians are employed at salaries of \$400, an apothecary at \$500 and an assistant apothecary at \$240, four consulting surgeons and physicians and ten attending physicians serve without compensation. The whole expense of conducting the institution last year was \$2,628.49. It received from the State \$1,000, from the corporation of the city the same sum, and the balance was supplied by private donations.



VIII. NEW-YORK EYE INFIRMARY.

This institution established in 1820, has been supported by private subscription, with a small donation from the corporation, and an appropriation from the State of one thousand dollars generally every year since 1823, but has been several times withheld, greatly to the embarrassment of the infirmary.

In 1854 the Legislature made a grant of \$10,000, on condition that 20,000 should be raised from other sources and expended in erecting a suitable building. One-half of this sum was at once subscribed by five individuals, and this was soon after increased to over \$24,000, and a commodious building has been erected and completed more than a year ago, at a cost of \$41,257.29, leaving an indebtedness of over \$6,000. Two consulting and four attending surgeons give their time and services to the institution without compensation, and one of the founders now on his thirty seventh year of gratuitous service, is still giving the infirmary the benefit of his great experience. Three thousand and fifty-two patients were prescribed for during the past year and forty-eight thousand five hundred and twenty-eight previously making fifty-one thousand five hundred and eighty, who have been treated since the foundation of the institution, and yet the whole expenses have never exceeded, exclusive of rent, \$1,500 per annum. Of the three thousand and fifty-two prescribed for last year one thousand one hundred and thirty-nine were born in the United States and one thousand nine hundred and thirteen in foreign countries. The doors of the infirmary are open to all, and patients from nearly every county in the State have been treated here, and attendance is never refused at their own quarters in the city when their condition requires it. The committee examined and highly approved the arrangements of the building, and witnessed the reception and treatment of the patients, and the attention paid the diseases of the eye and ear, by the surgeons to all who came seeking relief; and became

acquainted with numerous cases of acute diseases of the eye, which if neglected or unskillfully treated would inevitably have destroyed that organ, and which had been here arrested in their progress, and either perfectly or partially cured, and the patient made to enjoy the blessing of sight, of which but for timely attention he must have been deprived.

IX. HOUSE OF REFUGE, RANDALL'S ISLAND,

Under the care of the Managers of the Society for the reformation of Juvenile Delinquents.

The buildings of this society on Randall's Island, several miles from the city, are advantageously located, and of most convenient arrangement and substantial, plain construction. There are now in the buildings, 462 children, (401 boys and 61 girls.) Out of 329 white boys, only 61 are of American parentage. The society commenced its work in 1824, and has received and disposed of 7,000 children, and are enabled to say after thirty-two years' experience, that seventy per cent. of those who have been under their care became good and useful citizens; and the committee examined many interesting testimonials going to show the correctness of this estimate. The schools are subject to the inspection of the school officers, and the advancement of the children in knowledge is found to be very rapid. There has been but two deaths in the house since January last.

Financial Condition.

The income for the support of the institution for the past nine months to the 1st of October, has been as follows :

From the city treasury,.....	\$8,000 00
State,.....	6,000 00
license fees paid by theatres and circus co's.,..	3,670 00
the board of education,.....	1,936 44
labor of boys under contract,....	9,475 02

\$29,081 46

The expenditure during the same period for the support of the institution, viz. : provisions, clothing, education, &c., of inmates, and salaries of officers have been,..... \$28,998 00

Carried forward,..... \$83 46

Brought forward,.....	\$83 46
Probable receipts for Oct., Nov., and Dec.,.....	8,775 00
	<hr/>
	\$8,858 46
Probable expenditures for the same months,.....	9,600 00
	<hr/>
	\$741 54
Supply of coal for season to be paid for, already purchased, about,.....	3,000 00
New lead pipe recently laid across the Harlem river, about,.....	4,500 00
	<hr/>
Estimated deficit for 1856,.....	\$8,241 54
	<hr/> <hr/>
By the report of the managers to the Legislature, in January, 1856, it will be seen that the deficit in the income of the year 1855, to meet the expenses of the same year, was,.....	\$11,000 00
There was also due on the new buildings, not otherwise provided for, about,.....	9,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$20,000 00
Deficit, 1st January, 1857, as above,.....	8,241 54
	<hr/>
Debt of the Institution to above date,.....	\$28,241 54
	<hr/> <hr/>

Condition of buildings.

The main building, with its two wings, workshops, &c., complete for the boys, divided into two classes, is now finished and occupied; the north wing being used for the boys exclusively, and the south wing for the girls, excepting the two upper dormitories occupied by the boys at night. The foundations of the girls' house are laid and finished, ready for the superstructure. The rear building for the girls is finished, ready for the furniture, but cannot be occupied until the main building is completed. The much-desired classification of the boys, as also that of the girls, must be deferred until the house for the latter be built and finished. The managers only await the requisite appropriation from the State to complete the unfinished buildings, and thus to carry out the plans heretofore submitted to the Legislature, and approved by them. For this purpose, \$75,000 will be required.

Future support of the House.

For the support of the institution, the managers urge an appropriation annually, by the Legislature, instead of the \$8,000 heretofore granted, a per capita allowance of \$40, calculated upon the number reported each year as inmates of the house. With this addition to their regular income, the managers feel confident of sustaining the institution without further aid from the State to the annual support.

Internal management of the House and Inmates.

The officers of the house are a superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal of the boys' school with four assistants, matron, first and second assistant matrons, principal of the girls' school, with several sub-officers as overseers of the shops, hallmen, gardener, boatman, &c., &c. All persons regularly employed are obliged to live on the premises.

By the by-laws, copies of which were given to the committee, it will be seen that the inmates are allowed nine and one-half to ten and one half hours for sleep, three and one-half to four hours for school, seven to eight hours for work, and two and one-half to three hours for meals, recreation, &c., according to the season of the year.

Immediately after rising in the morning and dressing, they are sent to the school rooms for half an hour, thence to breakfast, and after breakfast to the workshops. They remain at work until twelve, when they dine, and after dinner return to the shops. The hour of closing work during four months is four P. M., and the other eight months four and one-half P. M. As, however, the boys have certain tasks to perform, which are so graduated as to be within the power of all easily to accomplish, many boys, by diligence and a moderate degree of expertness, frequently get through with their tasks before the appointed hour, and are allowed the rest of the time for play in the yards. After supper they are gathered in school, which lasts until eight, when they are sent to their dormitories.

During the Sabbath they are called to arise about the usual hour, and are gathered in the school rooms to learn the Sabbath lessons, both before and after the morning service in the chapel. There are two meetings for divine service on Sunday, lasting one hour and a half each.

In enforcing the discipline of the house, all punishment is regulated by the superintendent or assistant superintendent, and except in slight cases, the nature and occasion of the punishment must be entered in a book provided for the purpose, which is weekly submitted to the inspection of the executive committee.

The board of managers consists of thirty members and meets monthly. At these meetings the daily journal, kept by the superintendent, of all matters occurring at the house, is read, as also the minutes of the several standing committees entrusted with the supervision of the house and the affairs of the institution during the intervals between the meetings of the board.

The executive committee consisting of three members, meet weekly at the house and act upon all matters requiring attention. The condition of the house and shops, the discipline of the inmates and the general interests of the institution are all carefully supervised by this committee, the members of which are frequently changed as occasion may require, it being the rule that a member serves but three months and if negligent in his attendance, one more careful is put in his place.

The indenturing committee meet once a fortnight and as their name indicates, attend to the placing of the boys and girls with such families as from the best information they can obtain will be inclined to treat them kindly and carry on the reform here commenced.

The school committee have charge of the schools and visit them at least once a week, regulating the studies, examining the classes and endeavoring to aid the teachers and encourage the pupils.

The finance committee and the law committee act respectively upon the matters indicated by their titles.

From the commencement of this society the principle was adopted of each manager taking an active interest in its business and it has never been departed from. The economy which has always characterised the expenditures of the house, the faithfulness with which the public monies have been disbursed, the jealous watchfulness ever exhibited for the society's interests and the success which has attended its efforts in the cause of reform are so many evidences that the public confidence has

never been betrayed, and pledges that the successors of those worthy men who founded the institution will ever strive to follow in their noble path.

WESTERN HOUSE OF REFUGE, ROCHESTER.

This institution established and supported by the State, (visited 24th May) had then under its care 320 boys, whose average ages are thirteen years, eleven months and eighteen days, and two-thirds are children of foreign parents. They were found in a healthy condition and there had been no patient in the hospital for more than seven months. Two were under mechanical restraint for an attempt to escape, such punishment is not common, however, and has only been resorted to in two previous cases since the House of Refuge was established. The board of managers are guardians of the boys till they arrive at the age of twenty-one years, and estimate after eight years' experience that two-thirds are reclaimed and become useful members of society. All are required to attend morning and evening worship, and on Sundays in the chapel. Six teachers are employed to instruct the inmates during the week. Bible classes are taught by the principal teachers, and a library of 1,200 volumes is provided.

A farm of forty-two acres is attached to the House of Refuge, upon which a number of boys are occasionally employed. The committee visited the work-shops where the boys are instructed in various trades, and found them progressing satisfactorily. The amount received last year for their labor, contracted for at fifteen cents per day of seven and one-half hours, was \$10,000, and the product of the farm was \$1,164.21, and the disbursements for the support of the institution was \$32,028.32. Fifty-one boys were indentured to mechanics and farmers during the year. The boys labor about seven hours and are in school about three and one-half hours each day. The whole property is owned by the State and cost about \$110,000. The books and vouchers were submitted to the committee, and it appeared that the accounts had been correctly kept from the foundation of the institution. The house is well provided with conveniences for bathing, but the yard and play grounds are quite too limited to enable the inmates to take the out-door exercise which a due regard for health requires. Three or four acres more of yard room is wanted, to enable the managers to remove their temporary buildings farther from the principal edifice, and to erect others required for the employment of the present number of boys. This can be done by

extending the north and south walls 200 feet and taking down and rebuilding the west wall to correspond with them. It was represented that this improvement would cost \$11,000, and the safety of the main buildings seems to require it, for by the present crowded state of the several structures the principal buildings are greatly exposed to fire from the temporary ones, consisting of carpenters', coopers' and other shops where great numbers of boys are employed, and where great quantities of dangerous and combustible materials are necessarily accumulated. The president and managers devote much time to the care of the institution, and the discipline and the whole appearance of the house and its inmates furnish evidence of the high qualifications of the superintendent for the important duties pertaining to his office.

The general regulations of the house are similar to those of the House of Refuge in New-York, and it is believed that its operations and success will be found equally beneficial in the reformation of those committed to its care.

X. ALMS HOUSES.

NEWBURGH ALMS HOUSE, NEWBURGH, ORANGE COUNTY, N. Y.

This house, built about three years since by the town of Newburgh, is of brick, two stories high, is in a healthy location and surrounded by seventy acres of good land. It is under the care of a board of trustees. The house is well constructed; warmed by furnaces and stoves, and partially ventilated. It has eight wards, and though occasionally eight persons are placed in one room, four is usually the number for each. Religious services are had every Sunday, and a school is kept for the children half of the year.

A suitable pest house is provided, and two physicians are employed by the year, but there are no arrangements for bathing. The cells for lunatics are well arranged and kept in excellent order.

There are here two lunatics; one male and one female, both confined in cells. The whole number of inmates is thirty-eight; fourteen male and twenty-four female. This house receives criminals of a certain class from other towns in the county, though at present all except two, were Newburgh paupers. The inmates are but partially employed, and there should be a work house attached. The supply of food was abundant, and of a good quality. Of the inmates twenty-eight are foreign born, and ten native. Sixteen were children under sixteen years of age. The weekly cost of the support of each is one dollar. Of idiots, there are here three males and one female. But one blind person. During the past year there have been three births, ten deaths.

It is estimated that ninety per cent. of all who are received into this house are brought here in consequence of intemperance.

ALMS HOUSE DEPARTMENT IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

The institutions embraced in this department, are the

PENITENTIARY.

The present number of inmates (exclusive of 321 in the hospital,) in the penitentiary, is 488. The whole number received last year was 5,197, of whom seventy-two per cent. were foreigners.

In erecting several buildings, quarrying stone and making many improvements upon the Island, employment is given to all who are able to labor, and the health of the prisoners appears to be good, except among those whose previous habits of intemperance and lives of debauchery have brought upon them diseases which still affect them; and this is found to be the case with a large portion of all who are sent to the penitentiary. The amount paid for the support of this institution last year was \$61,293.86.

BLACKWELL'S ISLAND HOSPITAL.

The total number treated in this hospital last year, was 2,657. The present inmates number 321; the proportion of natives admitted last year was twenty-nine per cent.; of foreigners, seventy-one per cent., and of the whole number admitted, seventy-three per cent. were under thirty years of age, eighty-five per cent. were almost entirely uneducated, and eighty-eight and one-tenth per cent. were intemperate. The expense of supporting this hospital last year was \$42,556.69.

THE NEW-YORK CITY LUNATIC ASYLUM, BLACKWELL'S ISLAND.

This institution had on the first of October, 597 patients, of whom 258 were males, and 329 females; the number received since the first of January last, is 286, discharged 214, of which 137 were cured, sixty-one improved, and sixteen unimproved; the average of recoveries for the last three years amounts to about fifty per cent. The number of patients chargeable to the Commissioners of Emigration, is seventy-one; the number who were previously chargeable to the Commissioners and remain by reason of the lapse of five years, a charge solely on the alms house department, is seventy-eight, and many of these will probably remain so for life. There are three lunatics from, and supported by, the county of Queens.

This asylum is well arranged for the accommodation and safe keeping of the inmates; receiving patients of the most violent character it is able to control them all without resorting to chains and shackles, indeed they find no place here. At the time of the committee's visit only three were under restraint or confined, and these were merely placed in their own rooms and the doors closed upon them. The asylum is under the charge of a resident physician and two assistant physicians, who employ also as attendants, &c., (including females,) fifty-one persons, the united salaries of whom amount to \$12,756 annually. The asylum has also the benefit of the gratuitous services of two experienced visiting physicians.

The whole expenses last year were \$63,894.77. Eighty per cent. of the whole number of inmates on the first day of October, were foreigners.

WORK HOUSE.

There are now five hundred and thirty-seven persons employed in this house of whom seventy-five per cent are foreigners. Thirty males and one hundred and sixty-eight females are employed in the "work shop;" the wages for the males are 25 to 35 cents and the females 12½ cents per day. The building is clean and healthy and appears to be under good regulations.

ALMS HOUSE.

On the first day of October last there were one thousand two hundred and twenty persons in this division of the alms house department, seventy-five per cent of whom were foreigners. The whole number received last year was three thousand and ninety-six of whom only seven hundred and seventy-three were native citizens; and there were during the year two hundred and fifty-seven deaths. The expenses of the house last year were \$68,089.43.

COLORED HOME.

This institution (quite disconnected from the other buildings of the alms-house department being in the city of New-York,) supported by the governors of the alms house, receives destitute persons of color of all ages. The present number of inmates is two hundred and eighty-three. The whole number received last year was eight hundred and sixty-eight, viz: in the male hospital

one hundred and eleven; female hospital two hundred and ninety-nine; lying-in and nursery hospital one hundred and thirty one; in the department of the aged and infirm three hundred and twenty-seven. There were one hundred and eight deaths and seventy-one births during the year. For the care here taken of this most friendless class, who would look in vain for relief elsewhere, the city is indebted to an association of benevolent ladies, moved to this peculiar work by the very hopeless condition of these worn out and neglected people. The governors of the alms house last year paid for their support \$9,888.80. This institution also finds the best medical advice readily furnished without compensation from physicians, second to none in the profession.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL.

This hospital has been recently erected, and completed in October last. It is intended by the governors of the alms house to afford accommodation to all those suffering from small pox, both to those who are cast upon the charity of the city and others able to pay for proper attention but unwilling to expose their families to its influences. The building stands on the southern point of Blackwell's Island, and about two hundred yards from any other, and is surrounded on three sides by water, containing every accommodation that experience could suggest for the comfort of the sick, presenting a fair architectural appearance, of a simple and massive character, built of stone quarried on the island, one hundred and four feet in length and forty-five in depth, and will accommodate from sixty to seventy patients. The grounds afford agreeable walks for convalescent patients and command extensive views of the shores of Long Island and New-York, and also of the bay and harbor. This is believed to be the first hospital properly built and organized in this country for the exclusive use of small pox patients, who have heretofore been placed in sheds and out houses for want of this provision. Here not only will the poor be received, but the wealthy citizen and the traveler who visits the city can find a refuge if attacked by this disease, where otherwise he would find none, however able and willing he might be to pay for proper accommodation and care. A more suitable location could hardly be found, and the governors have done the city and the country a great service in providing such a hospital.

BELLEVUE HOSPITAL.

There are now in this hospital six hundred and nineteen patients; admitted the past year, five thousand seven hundred and forty-three; births, three hundred and six; died, six hundred and twenty-nine; of three hundred and three lying-in women received two hundred and seven were married, eighty-eight single, and eight widows. Of the whole number of deaths one hundred and sixty-seven have died within five days after their admission, and one hundred and ninety two from consumption; there have been fifty coroner's cases. It is well-known to all who visit this hospital, that a large class of the population of New York drag themselves here to die, or are sent by others when their condition affords no hope for recovery; and that a majority of its inmates are recruited from the worst fed and worst nurtured class in the community, unfitted by constitution and habits to resist the inroads of disease.

A new wing one hundred and fifty feet long, and fifty feet wide and four stories high, recently completed appears to contain all the conveniences necessary for a hospital. It is thoroughly ventilated and heated on the most approved system, and will accommodate about three hundred patients.

There are twenty-six surgeons and physicians attached to this hospital, and among these are gentlemen of the highest professional reputation whose services are rendered without compensation.

Ninety-seven persons, including nurses, are employed whose salaries annually amount to \$12,122.66, and the whole expenses of the hospital the past year, (exclusive of building the new wing) were \$80,773.86.

NURSERY ON RANDALL'S ISLAND,

Under the supervision of the Governors of the New-York Alms House Department.

The governors of the alms house have here all the children between the ages of two and sixteen committed to their care, averaging between nine hundred and one thousand, and last year indentured four hundred and fifty-nine. Seventy-five per cent of the children are those of foreign parents. Competent teachers are employed, and the schools are not inferior to the best common schools of the city. The average number attending

school daily, from first of January last, to first of October, five hundred and eighty four. Separate rooms and buildings are provided for the girls, and they are taught by females well qualified as instructors. Ample play grounds are provided and great attention paid to out-door exercise.

A hospital for children is established and under the charge of a physician, whose whole time is given to its care, and two hundred and twenty are under treatment. The number treated last year was two thousand three hundred. The deaths were two hundred and two; and the average number in the hospital for the year was two hundred and fifty-eight. Forty-five per cent. of all the children received on the Island during the year were sick and became inmates of the hospital. Scrofula, in its various manifestations, determines or complicates nine-tenths of all the diseases treated in this hospital, and causes a like proportion of the deaths. Seventy-four per cent. of all who die here are children, between two and five years of age, chiefly the diseased offspring of depraved parentage. In a comfortable building set apart for their use are twenty-eight idiots, of whom seventeen are over twelve years of age. Nine are subject to epilepsy; seven are mutes and one is blind. Four or five only of this number are considered proper subjects for admission to the State Asylum for the instruction of idiots. The committee were gratified to find that this unfortunate and generally neglected class here received that particular care and attention which their helpless condition requires, and that it is intended to secure for them all the benefit that they can receive from such special efforts for their improvements as are deemed practicable.

All the buildings provided for those on this Island are well adapted to the wants of the occupants; the sleeping rooms are well ventilated; the grounds affording room for all classes; the situation well chosen, and the whole extensive establishment furnishes evidence of the ability and efficiency of those under whose charge it is placed. The expense of supporting the nursery and hospital for the children last year was \$73,240.91.

CITY PRISON, NEW-YORK.

This prison is under the charge of the governors of the alms house. It contains one hundred and forty-four cells for males, and fifty for females; beside which there are several larger rooms of various sizes, where witnesses are detained, and which are

occasionally occupied by others. The cells are ventilated from the roof, and the whole house well warmed by stoves and steam pipes. There are three hundred and sixty-five prisoners now in confinement; two hundred and sixty-five of whom are males and one hundred females. They are committed mostly for petty crimes and misdemeanors: some awaiting trial for higher offences. Two hundred and ninety-two are foreign born and seventy-three native. Two-thirds, at least, are intemperate. All are confined in cells at night. Six deaths have occurred the past year, principally among those brought in a dying state. Religious services are attended here every Sabbath, and the whole prison indicates health, care and cleanliness.

While the committee were pursuing their examination, a visitor was detected (by an examination to which visitors are now not unfrequently subjected) in the act of introducing into the prison spirituous liquors, and four bottles were found upon his person, which clearly showed the character of the prisoners, as well as the visitor—the great care of the warden and the advantage of his strict regulations.

Nearly one hundred women were seen by the committee committed for intoxication. Seven men and three women are employed as assistant keepers or attendants, and a physician is always in attendance. He represents that there is here less sickness than among the same number elsewhere. In this prison many improvements have recently been made, and much work done, and all by the prisoners. The committee arrived at the conclusion that the management of the prison could hardly be improved upon. The expense of this prison last year was \$22,723.22.

These institutions are under the care and government of the governors of the alms-house department, of whom there are ten who serve without compensation, and are elected by the people at the general elections. They have also established a department for the out-door poor, which is placed in charge of a superintendent appointed by the governors. This department, last year, assisted eighty-five thousand, one hundred and thirty-six persons, at an expense of \$121,861.14—\$40,000 of which was for the purchase of coal for distribution. Five hundred and two families, who, with their children number one thousand, six hundred and fifty, are now receiving assistance from this out-door poor department, and it is supposed the approaching winter will increase the

number to that of last year. Of the thirty-one thousand, seven hundred and fourteen adults assisted among the out-door poor, twenty-six thousand and ninety were foreigners.

One thousand, one hundred and thirty-two destitute children were picked up by the officers of this charity last year, and sent to the children's nursery; and four hundred and seventy-three infants are reported by them as having been placed in the care of respectable nurses. Of these, forty-six were adopted; seventy-eight were returned to their parents; one hundred and seventy-one died; one hundred and seventy-eight remain with the nurses till they arrive at suitable age to be sent to the nursery.

The alms-house department has under its care one thousand, five hundred children under sixteen years of age—one hundred under six months, of which one-fifth are illegitimate. The number of idiots in the various buildings is one hundred and thirty-five, (thirteen boys, seventeen girls; thirty-eight male and sixty-seven female adults.) The whole number of deaths for the year ending 1st October, is one thousand, one hundred and twenty-two and the number of births, three hundred and twenty-eight. The governors also provide for one hundred and eighty colored children, at the colored orphan asylum, paying sixty cents for each child per week, where they receive such moral and religious instruction as could not be obtained in their institutions.

The number of persons employed in the alms house department, including physicians, assistants, keepers, and nurses, is three hundred and eighty-one, and their salaries for the year amount to \$113,544.40. The whole expenses of the department were, the last year, \$797,142.61. The number of physicians, surgeons, and assistant physicians employed, who receive salaries is twenty-four. A much greater number of professional gentlemen of great experience and high reputation, have for many years *given* these charitable institutions the benefit of their assistance and advice, and have regularly attended every important consultation.

In one of the largest of the institutions it was ascertained with great accuracy that eighty-eight and one-tenth per cent. of the inmates were intemperate; in the others sixty-five per cent. was believed to be the proportion.

The whole number of persons supported and assisted by the department on the first day of October was 7,478, provided for as will be seen by reference to the foregoing list of institutions.

Every facility was given to the committee to view the several buildings, hospitals, &c., under the governors, and to inquire into the treatment of the sick, the decrepit and the helpless, and they were found to present a cleanly, healthful abode for the unfortunate; a careful supervision of the orphan and deserted children, employment for the vagrant, continuous labor and strict discipline for criminals of both sexes, while all are provided with such surgical and medical treatment as may be required.

The hospitals are under the care of competent physicians, and great improvements have been made recently in their condition, by improved ventilation, the benefits of which are already apparent.

XI. JAILS.

ALBANY COUNTY JAIL IN THE CITY OF ALBANY.

This though a comparatively new structure does no credit to the capital city of the State, and by a grand jury of the county has been more than once indicted. Surrounded by other buildings, there is little chance for the circulation of fresh air, and that within the jail was found to be offensive and unhealthy; without ventilation, and crowded with prisoners, it is rendered dangerous to the health of the inmates, and should attract the attention of the courts and grand juries. It is impossible to classify the prisoners as the law requires, and yet there are found in the jail thirty-seven men and eight women; and it was represented to the committee that prisoners waiting trial are frequently allowed to remain in this place for months. The character of the prisoners and the effect of such an association can be judged by the commitments; which are: one for murder, two for rape, six for grand larceny, four for burglary, one for robbery of post office, six for petit larceny, four for misdemeanor, three for assault and battery, two for vagrancy, one for damages, one for rescuing prisoners, seven for drunkenness, five for disorderly conduct and *two witnesses*, and all these it was admitted had free intercourse during most of the day. It would seem that those long resident in such a place and in such company, if not lost to all hope of reformation upon going in, must be ruined in morals and in health on coming out. In the female department were eight, all confined in one room, and in which the air was found to be more offensive than in the male department.

There was said to be preaching in the jail every week, and the house was supplied with Bibles as required by statute.

ALLEGANY COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Angelica, and does not in the measure of its accommodations meet the requirements of the law. It is a

wooden structure without ventilation, heated by stoves. Four prisoners were found in confinement, one foreign and three native born, and committed, one for petit larceny second offence, one forgery, one petit larceny, one (a female) assault and battery. The prisoners have no employment and are supported at a weekly cost of \$2.75 each. The average number in confinement is six, four-fifths of whom are committed consequent upon habits of inebriation. The prisoners are confined in cells at night only, and are then placed two together.

BROOME COUNTY JAIL.

The jail in this county is located in the village of Binghamton, has been built for many years, and at the present time is very much out of repair, but the citizens of Broome are by no means satisfied with their present jail accommodations, and are now engaged in the construction of a more suitable edifice in which they design to secure some of the more important modern improvements. In the present jail the cells are all in the basement, and warmed by stoves, but entirely destitute of any means of ventilation. The present number of inmates is two. The average number of prisoners in confinement is ten, at an average weekly cost to the county of \$2.50 each. The largest proportion of the inmates are foreign born, and almost the whole number of commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation. From two to three are confined in a cell. The prisoners are occasionally employed at labor. One has died during the past year. No contagious or pestilential disease has prevailed during the year.

This jail is sometimes used to *confine lunatics*, though none were there at the time it was visited by the committee.

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Ellicottville, and is constructed of stone, two stories high, and furnishes ample accommodations for classification of the prisoners. It is warmed by stoves, but has no adequate means for ventilation. Two persons were found in confinement; both for larceny, one native, and one an Indian. Four is about the average number in confinement, one half of whom are committed consequent upon habits of inebriation. The prisoners have no employment, and are supported at a weekly cost of \$2.50 each.

They occupy the halls during the day, and are locked in cells at night. The jail is considered healthy and is supplied with Bibles.

CAYUGA COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the city of Auburn, and although without special provision for ventilation, the air was sweet and healthy and the whole establishment cleanly and in good order. It is heated by stoves. Eighteen persons were found in confinement, of whom two-thirds were foreign and one-third native born, and the most of them committed for intoxication. The average number in confinement is eleven, three-fourths of whom are committed consequent upon habits of inebriation. The prisoners are unemployed and supported at a weekly expense of \$2.50 each. None are confined in cells constantly but each in a separate cell at night. There has been one death during the year, by the hands of the public executioner.

CHAUTAUQUE COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Maysville, constructed of brick with stone cells; lacks accommodations for classifying prisoners according to law and is not ventilated. It is warmed by stoves. Ten prisoners were found in confinement which is the average number. Of those confined three were foreign and seven native born, of whom three lads, under twelve, freely mingle with old offenders. Two were confined on the charge of grand larceny, three petit larceny, four assault and battery. The prisoners are unemployed and are supported at a cost of \$3.50 per week each. Of those in jail two were committed consequent upon habits of inebriation. None of the prisoners are confined constantly in cells. There has been one death during the year, he was sick six to eight months. The keeper considered the jail unhealthy. It is supplied with Bibles.

CHEMUNG COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Elmira, and is entirely inadequate in its accommodations to answer the demands made upon it, and is entirely wanting of all appropriate means of ventilation. It is heated by stoves. Ten persons were found in confinement, embracing one woman for grand larceny, three males for a similar offence, two for arson, one riot, one burglary, one embezzlement and one petit larceny. The average number in confinement is twelve, at a cost to the county of two dollars and fifty cents per week each. No employment is provided for them and they spend much of their time in card playing and the like. Of those in prison nine were native and one foreign born, and of the whole number, at least one-half are committed consequent upon habits

of inebriation. During the day the prisoners mingle freely in the halls, corrupting and being corrupted by each other. At night each one is locked up separately, unless the number of prisoners exceed the number of cells, and then two and three are locked up together. There are no especial accommodations for females, and no separation of the sexes except as they are kept locked up, and as the number of males usually predominates they are allowed the use of the halls during the day, while females are kept in constant close confinement.

CHENANGO COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Norwich, and appeared cleanly and well kept. It is warmed by stoves, and, as usual, is without any means of ventilation. There were four prisoners found confined, which is one more than an average. No employment is provided. The weekly cost of their support is \$2.50 each. Of those in confinement two are native and two foreign born—two committed for petit larceny and two for vagrancy.

Of the whole number of commitments at least three-fourths are consequent upon habits of inebriation. At night each one of the prisoners is confined in a cell by himself, but during the day mingle together without restraint. There has been one death during the year by *suicide*. The only mode of punishment practiced is solitary confinement.

CLINTON COUNTY JAIL.

This jail does not afford accommodations so as to admit the classification of prisoners according to the requirements of the law. It is destitute of means for ventilation, and is warmed by stoves. Eleven prisoners were found in confinement. The average number in confinement is six, three-fourths of whom are foreign and one-fourth native born. The prisoners are in no wise employed, and are supported at a weekly expense of \$2.75 each. Of those in confinement, two were committed for grand larceny, two for debt, and the balance for intoxication and disorderly conduct. Of the whole number of commitments nine-tenths are consequent upon habits of inebriation. None are constantly confined in cells, and only one in a single cell at night.

COLUMBIA COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Hudson, and is so restrained in its accommodations as not to allow of a classification of prisoners as the law directs; and it is, withal, an *unhealthy* and an insecure jail,

and has been *indicted* by a grand jury of the county. It has no ventilation, and is heated by stoves. Seven prisoners were found in confinement, including two females, without employment, and charged with the following crimes, viz: one rape; one larceny, second offence; one breach of the peace, and four intemperance. The average number in confinement is ten, supported at a weekly cost of \$2.25 each, two-thirds of whom are committed consequent upon habits of inebriation. The prisoners are not confined in cells during the day, and never more than two in a single cell at night. The jail is not supplied with Bibles.

CORTLAND COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Cortlandville. The jail department embraces the basement of the court house building, and consists of a suite of seven cells. The floors of these cells are some four or five feet below the surface of the adjacent grounds, and are *usually* damp, and sometimes *wet*, by water leaking through the outer *walls*, rendering the apartments both uncomfortable and unhealthy. Nor do they possess any means for ventilation, and are very dimly lighted. The privy is on a level with the floor of the cells, and without sewerage, requiring the constant use of correctives, and yet the air remains constantly impure and unhealthy.

Only one prisoner was found in jail. The average number in confinement is two, supported at a weekly expense of \$2.00 each, two-thirds of whom become residents consequent upon habits of inebriation. The present occupant is a native, committed for an assault and battery upon his mother, and is permitted to range the halls.

DELAWARE COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Delhi; is built of wood, and warmed by furnaces. Its jail accommodations consist of four rooms, about twelve by fifteen feet each, and is usually sufficient to meet the requirements of law in the classification of prisoners, but not always. It has no means for ventilation.

One person, in his loneliness, was found occupying one of the above described rooms, supported at a cost of \$2.50 per week. He was a foreigner, and committed for threatening life. The average number of prisoners is two, and half of these are committed consequent upon habits of inebriation.

DUTCHESS COUNTY JAIL, POUGHKEEPSIE.

This jail, in which sixteen men and four women were confined when visited by the committee, in June, is totally unfit to be the habitation of human beings; where the health of the prisoners must be injured by a short residence, and inevitably ruined by a long one. The foul air from the privy and the sewer which receives *all* the impurities of the prison, is drawn into the building and the offensive effluvia is spread through the whole structure. It has been represented to the committee that the jail has been more than once presented as a nuisance by the grand jury, and that the neighbors were even much annoyed, and complained that their own houses were rendered unhealthy by the offensive atmosphere arising from the prison. Two deaths have occurred during the year, and there was frequent cases of sickness among the prisoners. The jailer is also unable, for want of suitable rooms to class the prisoners as required by law, and witnesses have been confined in the same rooms with criminals. Nor is that part of the law which requires that the jail should be supplied with Bibles regarded, and the house was without them.

Two prisoners were found chained in cells, and one was found chained to the floor, where he had been for a week without bed or covering; (committed by a justice of the peace, and unable to find bail for \$200,) evidently deranged, and the committee took the opinion of an experienced physician, who pronounced him insane. The committee before leaving him obtained a promise from the jailor that he should be sent to the county poor house, and also commended him to the especial care of the physician there, who, they are satisfied will give him the necessary attention.

Sixteen men and four women confined. For felony six; murder two; petit larceny and drunkenness twelve. Fourteen is the average number of inmates, two-thirds of whom are here consequent upon intemperance, and are here idle, supported at a cost of \$2.25 per week each; two-third foreign and one-third native born.

ERIE COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the city of Buffalo, and is so constructed as to enable the sheriff to classify the prisoners, according to the requirements of law. It is well heated by the use of stoves, but wanting in ventilation. The basements are occupied, but are

above ground. There were thirty prisoners in confinement; twenty-seven of them confined, each in a single cell, without employment, and supported at a weekly cost of \$2.00 each. The average number in confinement is twenty; two-thirds of whom find themselves in jail consequent upon habits of inebriation. Of those in prison eight were committed for grand larceny, three for burglary, three on a peace warrant, five petit larceny, one false pretences, five assault and battery, two for debt, and the balance undergoing sentence of the court. Two have died in jail during last year. The jail is supplied with Bibles.

ESSEX COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Elizabethtown, is not considered healthy, nor will its accommodations allow of a classification of prisoners according to the requirements of law. It is heated by stoves. Three prisoners were found in confinement, all native born; one charged with petit larceny, and two with breaking jail. The average number in confinement is three, who spend their time in idleness, being supported by the county at a weekly expense of \$2.50 each. Two-thirds of the whole number committed consequent upon habits of inebriation. Two prisoners are constantly kept in one cell or room and one in another.

FRANKLIN COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is so improperly constructed that the sheriff cannot classify the prisoners as the law requires.

During the past year one prisoner escaped, but was retaken. The jail is warmed by stoves, and is without ventilation. Two prisoners were found in confinement, both foreign born; one was committed for drunkenness and one for assault and battery. The average number in confinement is five, and seven-eighths of these are brought to prison consequent upon habits of inebriation. The weekly cost of their support is \$2.25 each. The prisoners are not furnished employment.

FULTON COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Johnstown, and has such accommodations that the prisoners can usually be classified according to law.

It has no ventilation. Three persons were found in confinement, one foreign and two native born, one committed for *murder* and two for *petit larceny*. The average number in confinement is six, one-half of whom are brought there by habits of inebriation, and supported at a weekly cost of \$2.75 each. One is constantly confined and the other two at night, each in a separate cell or room.

There has been a lunatic confined in this jail for months, occasioned by the fact that the county had no county poor house, and because he was denied admission in the asylum, as was alleged.

GENESEE COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Batavia, and has not sufficient accommodations to admit of a classification of the prisoners according to law. It has no ventilation, is warmed by stoves. Five persons were found confined, which is the average number in confinement, three of whom were foreign and two native born. They have no employment, and are supported at a weekly cost of \$2.00 each.

They are confined in cells during the night only. Four-fifths of the whole number committed to this jail are here in consequence of habits of inebriation. The jail is supplied with Bibles.

GREENE COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Catskill, and does not admit of the classification of prisoners according to law. It is supplied with Bibles, and warmed by stoves. It has no ventilation and the air in the cells is bad. Fifteen prisoners were found in confinement, of whom one was foreign and fourteen native born, committed for the following offences, viz: one riot, one barn burning, two burglary, two *petit larceny*, five assault and battery, two intemperate, one vagrant and one for debt, who are supported at a weekly cost of \$2.50 each. The average number in confinement is ten, two-thirds of whom are committed consequent upon habits of inebriation. The prisoners all confined in cells, except four who are allowed to go out. *Boys committed to this jail are allowed to freely commingle with adult criminals.*

HERKIMER COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Herkimer, and in its construction the idea of *strength* and security seems to have governed the

architect in devising a plan at the expense almost of both *light and air*. It is very badly lighted and worse ventilated, and is not constructed, so as to classify the prisoners according to law. It is heated by furnaces which warms the upper portion of the jail but not the lower portion. Five prisoners were found in confinement, one on a charge of *murder*, one arson, one grand larceny, one disorderly and one debtor. Of these, two are foreign born, and three native born. The average number in confinement is six, and seven-tenths of the whole number committed are consequent upon habits of inebriation. The cost of their weekly support is \$2.75 each. The prisoner charged with murder is kept constantly in his cell. The remainder are only locked up at night, and then some times four in one cell, though usually but one. The jail is supplied with Bibles.

JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Watertown, and is a recently constructed, substantial edifice, but does not embrace, but to a very limited extent, the modern improvements in prison architecture. There is a *slight attempt* at ventilation. The building is constructed so as to admit of the classification of the prisoners.

Five, which is the average number, were found in confinement, three males and two females. Of these, two were foreign, and three, native born; and committed, one for rape, one burglary, one petit larceny, one disorderly, and one drunkenness. Of the commitments, *one hundred and sixty in all, since first of January last one hundred and twenty were committed for drunkenness*. Two are constantly confined in cells, but only one in a single cell. The cost of their weekly support is \$2.00 each. No employment is provided for the prisoners. The jail is considered healthy, and is heated by furnace and stoves.

KINGS COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the city of Brooklyn; has been built about twenty years, and is very much shut in by adjoining buildings, preventing a free circulation of air. It was built before the importance of fresh air, even to criminals, was well understood, and the consequence is, there is no ventilation. The keeper thinks he can classify the prisoners according to law, and yet your committee found a lad some eight years old, *detained in prison as a witness*, locked up in a cell with an adult convict un-

dergoing sentence. The impropriety of such treatment, not to call it by any harsher name, must be apparent to all.

One hundred, of all ages and both sexes, were found in confinement, (although eighty is the average,) three-fourths of whom were foreign, and one fourth native born; committed, the greatest portion of them, for drunkenness. It is estimated that three-fourths of all the commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation. Four-tenths of the whole number are constantly confined in cells, and, on an average, two in a cell. The cells, especially in the basement, which are *damp*, added to a vitiated atmosphere, must render it very unwholesome. From January to October of the present year, there have been five deaths in jail, and all have died of the *drunkard's fever*, delirium tremens. The prisoners are not employed, and are supported at a weekly cost of \$2.10. The building is heated by steam and hot water, and is supplied with Bibles. This jail is, in no proper sense, the just exponent of the intelligence, wealth. and enterprise of the city of Brooklyn.

LEWIS COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in Martinsburg, has been built thirty-five years. The jail accommodations consist of two rooms about twelve by fourteen feet each, and of necessity comes short of the accommodations required by law, and is withal considered unhealthy. It has no ventilation and is heated by stoves. Three prisoners were found confined, which is the average number, and they were all occupying one room, and were all native born, Two were charged with arson and one with threatening to kill his wife; one-fifth of the commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation. There is *one Testament* in the jail for the use of the inmates. The prisoners are in nowise employed, and supported at a weekly cost of \$2.75 each.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is an old structure located in the village of Geneseo, and was built thirty-two years ago, and is considered unhealthy. It has no ventilation and the air in the jail is very impure and offensive, and is so constructed that the prisoners cannot be classified according to law. Two prisoners were found in confinement. The average number is six. Of those confined one was a negro and one foreign born, one was confined for whipping his wife. Of the whole number of commitments nine-tenths are consequent upon habits of inebriation. Sometimes two are con-

fined in a single cell, but at the present, none are confined. The weekly cost of their support is two dollars and fifty cents each. No employment is provided for the prisoners. The committee was informed that in times past a very lax discipline had been practiced in this jail, but as nothing was charged against the present discipline the committee did not enter into an investigation of the matter.

MADISON COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is situated in the village of Morrisville, and has been built thirty-five years. Its accommodations consist of six rooms or apartments. Without ventilation. It is heated by stoves. Three prisoners were found in confinement, one foreign and two native born. Of these one was on his trial for murder, one for burglary and larceny, one receiving stolen goods. Five is considered an average number in confinement, two-thirds of whom are committed consequent upon habits of inebriation. The prisoner charged with murder occupied a suite of rooms and had busied himself manufacturing cigars. The remaining two occupied another room and were supported at a weekly cost of \$2.50 each. There has been one death in the jail during the year, disease, delirium tremens or jail fever.

MONROE COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the city of Rochester, and is an old building, constructed of stone and without any means for ventilation. It is heated by stoves, but in very severe weather it is found *impossible* to keep it comfortably warm. Twenty-four prisoners were found confined. The average number is twenty-one, and are supported at a weekly expense of \$1.25 each. They have no employment. Of those confined eighteen were foreign and six native born. Eight were charged with burglary, two rape, one murder, two petit larceny, one threatening life, one debtor and nine for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. Three-fourths of all the commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation. The prisoners meet in the halls during the day, except those undergoing sentence of the court. At night each one is locked in a separate cell. The jail is supplied with Bibles.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Fonda, and its accommodations consist of four rooms, each about eighteen feet square; also two dark and two light cells, which do not furnish accommodations sufficient to meet the requirements of the law in the

classification of prisoners. It has no ventilation, and is heated by stoves. Five prisoners were found in confinement, one charged with rape, one grand larceny, two assault and battery, and one disorderly conduct. Of these, all were native born. The average number in this jail is ten—much the largest number of commitments occurring during the winter months, and is explained by the keeper in this wise. He remarked there were many in and about Albany who, at the close of canal and river navigation, found themselves without a home or employment, and not cherishing a very kind feeling for Capt. Pilsbury's domestic arrangements, would wend their way beyond his jurisdiction, commit some petty offence, and thus secure a shelter and board at the expense of Montgomery, or some other adjacent counties, during the inclement season, spending much time in card playing and other light labor. Of those in confinement two occupied one room and three another. The jail is supplied with Bibles. The weekly cost of prisoners is \$2.75 each.

NEW-YORK COUNTY JAIL IN ELDRIDGE STREET.

This prison is used for debtors and there also are confined prisoners, committed for trial by the officers of the United States government.

At the time the prison was visited by the committee (October 9th,) there were in confinement twelve of the former class and sixteen of the latter, seven were brought in irons while the committees were at the jail charged with being engaged in the slave trade. The average number in confinement is represented to be eighteen. Two-thirds of the present inmates were foreigners. There are only three rooms for prisoners and these are much crowded, it being necessary to place seventeen in one of the largest; and the air in all and throughout the building is offensive and must be injurious to the health of the inmates. There is no ventilation, but little chance for air, *and all, guilty or innocent* are much worse treated than convicts at the penitentiary.

NIAGARA COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Lockport, is heated by stoves and is without any special means for ventilation. Twenty-nine prisoners were found in confinement, one on a charge of murder, one rape, larceny and other crimes. The average number confined is twenty-seven; of those in confinement three-fourths were foreign and one-fourth native born. They are in no wise

employed and are supported at a weekly cost of (amount not furnished,) and have all been brought into their present condition consequent upon habits of inebriation.

The keeper informed the committee, he considered the jail an unerring barometer indicating the flow and suppression of intoxicating drinks. He stated that in the year 1854 from the 4th of July to the 21st, there were committed to jail from three to six daily. During a similar period in the year 1855, when the Maine Law was in force there was but one commitment, and subsequently as the law came to be disregarded the number of commitments fluctuated as the law was leniently or rigorously enforced. In answer to the question, whether any pestilential or contagious disease had prevailed, he replied: there has not, if you except *delirium tremens*, that is very common, said he, We have had *six cases* at once. At night each prisoner is locked in a cell by himself, unless the jail is crowded.

ONEIDA COUNTY JAIL.

This county has two jails, one at Utica and one at Rome.

The Utica jail is comparatively a new structure of brick and stone, located in a pleasant, sparsely settled part of the city, but in its design and construction comes short of what a modernly constructed jail should be, and especially in so enterprising a city as Utica. The basement of the building is carried several feet below the surface of the surrounding grounds, and is considerably damp, and in consequence of imperfect sewerage the lower floors are liable to be, as they have been, overflowed by stagnant putrid water, which is exceedingly offensive and unhealthy; to this is to be added a want of ventilation. In this part of the jail eight prisoners were found, all males. In the upper portion eight more, females, with no particular improvement in their condition except a partial abatement of the dampness, all of whom except two were committed consequent upon habits of inebriation. Your committee was informed that the water on the premises designed for drinking and culinary purposes, was unsuitable for such uses. In view of the above statement, your committee consider, those having the matter in charge as having overlooked obvious and acknowledged requirements of law.

ONEIDA COUNTY JAIL, ROME.

This jail is located in the village of Rome. It is heated by stoves, and is moderately ventilated by a small flue leading from

each cell. There were eleven prisoners in confinement, on charges for assault and battery, and petit larceny. The average is about fifteen, supported at an expense of \$1.75 per week, each. Of those in prison, two-thirds were foreign, and one-third native born, and three-quarters of the whole number are committed consequent upon habits of inebriation. The jail contains four large rooms and twelve small cells. The prisoners mingle together during the day, but are locked up singly at night. It is supplied with Bibles, and is esteemed healthy.

ONONDAGA COUNTY JAIL AND PENITENTIARY.

This institution is located in the city of Syracuse, and answers the double purpose of a jail and penitentiary. It is a large and commodious edifice, pleasantly located upon a rise of ground in a healthy part of the city, with a number of acres of open grounds about the building, thus affording a fine circulation of air. It is warmed by stoves, and the male department very well ventilated. In the female department ventilation is entirely wanting. The contrast between a pure air on one side, and a close poisonous air on the other, was very marked and observable by the most careless observer, and your committee were assured that *immediate* measures would be taken to obviate the wrong. Sixty-seven were found confined in the penitentiary department and twenty-three in the jail. The average number has been about sixty.

Those in the jail have no employment, while those in the penitentiary are engaged in improving and cultivating the surrounding grounds, and in mechanical labor. The cost of their weekly support could not be ascertained. Of those confined three-fourths were foreign born, and one-fourth native. The offences for which they are committed are mostly *vagrancy and intoxication*; at least five-sixths are dependent upon these causes. Those committed to jail are kept constantly in their cells, day and night, while those sentenced to the penitentiary work during the day and at night are secured each in a separate cell. There were eleven females in confinement. There is a chapel finished off in the building, but is not occupied at present for religious worship. The institution is supplied with Bibles. The form of punishment is the yoke and shower bath.

ONTARIO COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is situated in the village of Canandaigua, and is so constructed as not to admit of a proper classification of prisoners.

It has no ventilation, and is warmed by stoves. Twenty persons is an average number confined. There were, however, twenty-four in confinement at this time, thirteen foreign and eleven native born; one was committed for lunacy, one mail robbery, one grand larceny, petit larceny one, *intoxication, vagrancy and assault and battery, twenty*. Two-thirds of all the commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation. The prisoners have no employment, and are supported at a weekly cost of \$2.25 each. During the day the prisoners are let out into the halls, but are confined in separate cells at night, except when the jail is crowded. It is supplied with Bibles.

There is one *lunatic confined in this jail by order of the superintendents of the poor*. The committee are of the opinion that *very strong reasons* should exist to justify the superintendents in such a course.

ORANGE COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in Goshen, and contains ten cells for men, and four for women, so that under ordinary circumstances, the prisoners can be classified according to law. It is heated by stoves, and is without ventilation. Eleven prisoners were found confined; two native, and nine foreign born.

One charged with rape, two burglary, one grand larceny, two fighting, two drunkenness, one petit larceny, one disorderly conduct, and one *witness*, a boy of fourteen years of age—all freely commingling in the halls during the day. This putting an innocent person, and he too a youth, unlearned, it is to be hoped, in the ways of vice, on a legal level, and into the society of the highest grade of offenders known to our laws, is, in the opinion of your committee, inexcusable. Of all those confined, except the *witness*, every one had come to prison consequent upon habits of intemperance, and yet this boy is obliged to become the companion of vile and besotted men. At night, two are placed in a single cell. No Bibles in this jail.

NEWBURGH JAIL, NEWBURGH.

This jail, located at Newburgh, is designed only for the confinement of prisoners committed from that town. The jail is under the court house, the floor of which is within two feet of the ground, in consequence of which the prisoners are almost entirely below the surface. There are four cells, eight feet square, and one ten by eighteen feet; all eight feet high. These are lighted

by windows, between the ground and court house floor, about two feet square, and giving very little light or air, and the whole is so damp that a fire is kept *during the whole year*.

It has been necessary to confine fifteen prisoners in one cell, and all, women and men, are placed in these damp rooms, without other light or ventilation than from the small windows near the ground, in rear of the building. The keeper considered it an unhealthy residence, and found it impossible, either to make it comfortable, or to class the prisoners as required by the statute. There were twelve convicts found in this jail; one of these a woman. The committee were informed that divine services were performed here regularly on Sundays.

ORLEANS COUNTY JAIL.

The jail in this county is located in the village of Albion, and is so limited in its capacity and so imperfectly arranged internally, that prisoners cannot be classified according to the requirements of law. It is warmed by stoves but destitute of ventilation. Five persons were found confined, although eight is estimated the average number of those in confinement; four were foreign and one native born, and of these four were committed for drunkenness. Four-fifths of the commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation. The prisoners are in no wise employed. There have been no deaths during the year. At night each prisoner is confined alone in a single cell, when not crowded, but during the day the prisoners, as usual in most of the jails of the State, have free access to, and intercourse with each other during the day in the halls; there the old and the young, the novice and the adept in crime, meet and mingle and as a necessary consequence the "last state" of many juvenile offenders is made worse than the first.

OSWEGO COUNTY JAIL, AT OSWEGO.

This jail is a stone structure, located on the bank of the lake in an airy position, but in its construction ventilation was neglected. It contains twelve single and six double cells, formed of plank bolted together. In the single cells from one to two are placed, in the large ones from four to six. The prisoners lodge on wooden bunks. It is warmed by stoves. The basements are occupied for domestic purposes. Twenty-five prisoners were found in confinement which is the average number. Of these eleven were committed for grand larceny, two vagrancy, one

bastardy, all awaiting trial. Undergoing sentence one for breaking jail, two petit larceny, two assault and battery, three drunkenness, one awaiting examination, one witness, one lunatic. The prisoners are locked in their cells at night but mingle together in the halls during the day. The air in the cells and halls is bad. The turnkey remarked, that in "turning the prisoners out" in the morning, the air was so offensive he was liable to lose his breakfast. The vaults are outside the building without a sewer and exceedingly offensive and unhealthy. They are enclosed by a fence insufficient to prevent escape of the prisoners, except by the constant watch of the keeper. The cost of the support of the prisoners is \$2.25 each per week. Those undergoing sentence are sometimes employed at labor on the streets, on the public docks and in sawing wood for citizens. The jail is considered unhealthy and does not admit of the classification of prisoners as the law requires. Three-fourths at least of the inmates come to this jail consequent upon habits of inebriation. Twenty foreign, five native born; three females, one with a nursing child.

OSWEGO COUNTY JAIL, AT PULASKI.

The jail at Pulaski is kept in the first story of a two story brick building, the second story of which is used for a court house. Its accommodations are inadequate to meet the requirements of law in the classification of prisoners. It is heated by stoves, has no ventilation. Two prisoners were found in confinement, both native born, one confined on a charge of burglary and the other for debt. They are in nowise employed and are supported at a weekly cost of two dollars each. Of these one is confined to his cell, the other has the liberty of the yard. Two is the average number confined in this jail, and seven-eighths of all the commitments to this prison are consequent upon habits of inebriation. The jail is considered healthy.

OSWEGO COUNTY JAIL, AT FULTON.

This jail is authorised by provisions of law contained in the village charter, and is not under the jurisdiction and control of the sheriff of the county, but under the management and control of the trustees of the village. The jail department consists of five cells and a hall in the basement of a block of buildings, and is somewhat damp. It is heated by a stove, but has no ventilation, and in the cells the air is offensive and unhealthy. No pris-

oners were found in confinement. The usual or average number is three; seventeen have been confined at one time. Prisoners are mostly idle, occasionally they are set to work on the highways. Of those confined in this jail three-quarters are foreign and one-quarter native born, and three-quarters at least come to prison consequent upon habits of inebriation. The prisoners are locked in cells at night, and mingle together in the hall by day. The only most prevalent form of disease in this jail is *delirium tremens*, or fevers produced by drunkenness. The weekly cost of the support of the prisoners is \$2.25 each. Lunatics are occasionally locked up and kept here a few days at a time.

OTSEGO COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Cooperstown. It is warmed by stoves but is not ventilated, and presented a dirty and slovenly appearance. There were six prisoners in confinement; the average number is eight, costing the county \$3.00 each per week, and without any employment. Those six were all native born, and five of them committed for a breach of the peace. One-third of the whole number imprisoned in this jail are brought here by habits of inebriation. None are confined in cells during the day but at night all are locked up and placed from one to three in a single cell.

PUTNAM COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Carmel, and is a building of very modest pretensions, being twenty-four by twelve feet, having but two cells fit to be occupied. It is heated by a *small* stove and devoid of ventilation, and was some two or three years since *indicted by a grand jury*, after an examination of the premises.

The vault, in this as in some other jails, is on a level with the cells, and is, as it must ever be, under such circumstances, *offensive* and unhealthy.

No inmates were found in this jail; from one to two occupants is considered a fair average; though instances have existed where five or six have been confined at once, and in all such cases, of course the requirements of law cannot be complied with. Females are sometimes so unfortunate as to make this jail a home.

QUEENS COUNTY JAIL.

This jail possesses the requisite accommodations to meet the requirements of law in the classification of prisoners. It is

heated by stoves and is healthy. Fifteen prisoners were found in confinement, without employment and supported at a cost of \$2.37½ per week each, of these five were foreign and ten native born, and all committed consequent upon habits of inebriation and charged with the following offences, viz: larceny nine, vagrant one, assault and battery three, misdemeanors two. The average number in confinement is twenty-five, three-fourths of whom at least are brought to prison consequent upon habits of inebriation. None are confined constantly in cells. Four are sometimes placed in a single cell. The jail is supplied with Bibles.

RENSSELAER COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Troy, and possesses accommodations admitting of the classification of prisoners, and is considered perfectly healthy. It is heated by furnaces and stoves. Twenty-four prisoners were found in confinement, including four females. Of these, three-fourths were foreign, and one-fourth native born. All are employed and supported at a weekly expense of \$2.25 each; three-fifths of whom are committed consequent upon habits of inebriation, and charged with the following crimes: One murder, one robbery, two counterfeiting, two burglary, one seduction, seventeen disorderly conduct. The average number confined is twenty-five. None are confined in cells during the day. There is *one lunatic confined in jail*. It is supplied with Bibles.

RICHMOND COUNTY JAIL,

Is located at the village of Richmond. It is heated by stoves, and is without ventilation, and as a consequence, the air becomes vitiated and offensive. Five prisoners were found in confinement; all committed for misdemeanors. Twelve is the average number in confinement, ninety per cent. of whom are committed consequent upon habits of inebriation; or, in the language of the keeper, "we hardly have any others." The jail is considered unhealthy and damp, especially the lower floor. The prisoners are unemployed; two are usually confined in a single cell, sometimes three. No bedsteads are furnished, even for female prisoners. They are supported at a weekly cost of \$3.00 each per week. The inmates were all foreign born, two males and three females. The prisoners cannot be classified according to the requirements of law. The jail is not supplied with Bibles, as required by the statute.

This jail is said to have been indicted, and there is no doubt that it should be. It is a reproach to any county to confine men and women in a place so injurious to health, and should arrest the attention of the people of the county, as well as the courts and grand juries, and all who are accountable for the safe keeping and proper treatment of those in confinement, whether under sentence, or committed for trial.

ROCKLAND COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Clarkstown, and will not admit of the classification of prisoners according to the requirements of law. It has but four cells or rooms, of which two are esteemed unhealthy.

Seven prisoners were found in confinement, committed four on the charge of larceny, two assault and battery, and one misdemeanor. The prisoners are unemployed, and supported at a weekly cost of \$2.25 each. Two were foreign and five native born. The average number in confinement is from five to six, and are confined in cells, two in a single cell.

The jail is supplied with Bibles. Of those in confinement two were consequent upon habits of intoxication.

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is constructed of stone, two stories, and without ventilation. The sheriff considers the jail healthy, but admits he cannot for the want of proper room classify his prisoners according to the requirements of law. Fourteen prisoners were found in confinement, one for burglary and larceny, one assaulting an officer, two assault and battery, two petit larceny, and five for drunkenness and disorderly conduct; of these thirteen were foreign born, and one native. The average number in confinement is twelve, supported at a weekly cost of \$3.00 each. These prisoners have no employment provided for them, nine-tenths of whom are brought to prison consequent upon habits of inebriation. The prisoners meet in the halls during the day, and at night are locked in cells, usually two, and sometimes three together.

SARATOGA COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Ballston, and has accommodations that admit of the classification of the prisoners. The cells are of good size, but not ventilated. It is warmed by stoves. Fourteen

prisoners were found in confinement, of whom two were foreign born and twelve native; they are unemployed, and were committed two for grand larceny, one false pretences, two vagrancy, three drunkenness, one abusing his wife, two assault and battery, and three petit larceny. Theweekly cost of their support is \$2.25 each. The average number in confinement is twelve, and at least three-fourths of the commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation.

Eleven were found confined in cells, three and sometimes six are placed in a single cell. The jail is considered healthy and is supplied with Bibles.

It is the custom of the superintendents of the poor to visit this jail three or four times a year.

SCHENECTADY COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the city of Schenectady, and admits of the classification of prisoners. It is not ventilated and is warmed by stoves. This jail was found without an occupant. The average number in confinement is three, supported at an expense of \$2.25 per week, each. Prisoners have no employment and two-thirds of the whole number committed is consequent upon habits of inebriation. One death occurred during the year by *suicide*. The jail is considered healthy. Is not supplied with Bibles.

SCHOHARIE COUNTY JAIL.

The jail in this county is located in the village of Schoharie, and is *a sort of an out-building*, small, close and uninviting as a residence, and for this or some other equally good reason it was tenantless, at the time of the visitation of your committee. It presented a tolerably tidy appearance inside, and is warmed by stoves, and receives what ventilation it obtains through the doors and windows. The average number of occupants is ten, and supported at a cost of \$2.50 a week, each. No employment provided. Prisoners spend much of their time in reading. During the day the prisoners mingle together, but at night are locked up, from one to four in a single cell. Full two-thirds of the commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation.

SCHUYLER COUNTY JAIL.

The jail in this county, located at Havana, has been recently constructed and is not yet occupied. In the erection of this jail

great care and pains have been taken, not only to give it a pleasant exterior, but to introduce into the whole arrangement of the several departments within, the various modern improvements combining the safety, comfort and healthfulness of its occupants.

SENECA COUNTY JAIL.

The jail of Seneca county is located in the village of Waterloo. It is eighteen by forty feet in size, on the ground; is warmed by stoves, but entirely destitute of any means of ventilation. There were four persons in confinement. The average number is ten; supported at a weekly cost of \$2.37 1-2 cents each. Of those in confinement, two were native, and two foreign born. About ninety-five per cent. of the commitments are foreigners, and about nineteen-twentieths of the whole number are brought to this jail as a consequence of habits of inebriation. Of the whole number (one hundred and nine,) committed between the 1st of January last, and the time of visitation by the committee in June following, one hundred and five were intemperate, and four temperate. Of those then in jail, one was constantly confined in his cell, the others, during the day, had the privilege of the hall.

The prisoners are not employed. There has been no prevailing contagious or pestilential disease during the year, if delirium tremens, the drunkard's fever, be excepted. This disease, the keeper assured your committee, had been very common, though no deaths had occurred. The jail is otherwise esteemed healthy, and the prisoners are supplied with Bibles to read if they choose. This jail is so improperly constructed that prisoners cannot be classified according to the requirements of law.

Three of the inmates from this jail have been sent to the Monroe county penitentiary, to work out the period to which they were sentenced, on terms advantageous to both counties.

STEUBEN COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Bath, and is closely surrounded by adjoining buildings. This, together with an entire want of ventilation from within, renders it, of necessity, an unhealthy habitation. The keeper seemed sensitively alive, to the facts and difficulties connected with his establishment, and had evidently done all in his power to abate nuisances and make the jail comfortable; all of which can avail but little until the patriotism and humanity of the citizens of the county shall be suc-

cessfully invoked, and a new building erected, worthy of so intelligent and wealthy a county as Steuben.

The *basement* of this building is occupied by cells, in which were confined six prisoners; and which, on an average, are occupied by eight. Of those confined, one was foreign born, and five native. One committed for grand larceny, one counterfeiting, one incest, one assault with intent to kill, two petit larceny. These are confined in cells at night; one in small cells, and two or more in large ones. They have no employment provided for them. Two-thirds of all the commitments to this jail are consequent, directly or indirectly, upon habits of inebriation.

SUFFOLK COUNTY JAIL AT RIVER HEAD.

This jail was built two years ago, and is a fine edifice containing twelve rooms, the ceilings ten feet high, well ventilated, in a healthy location and is kept by the sheriff of the county. It is in all respects what a county jail should be, and is creditable to those who establish and support it. Four were found in confinement, all native born, and supported at a weekly cost of \$1.50. Of the whole number received into this jail, nineteen-twentieths are intemperate. The prisoners are here classified as the law requires, and the house supplied with Bibles.

SULLIVAN COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Monticello. Its accommodations will not admit of the classification of prisoners, as the law requires at all times. The *basement* is occupied by five cells, five by seven feet, and seven feet high, which are occupied by those committed for crime. They are not damp, nor are they well ventilated. The jail is warmed by stoves. Three prisoners were found in confinement, which is the average number, all of whom were native born, and committed, one for debt, and two for burglary. Two-thirds of the commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation. The cost of their support per week, is \$2.50 each. There are none confined in cells constantly. Only one is placed in a single cell. There is a room seven by eight feet appropriated to the use of the women, and another fourteen feet square which is used by all the prisoners. It is considered healthy. Is not supplied with Bibles.

TIOGA COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Owego, and seems to be very well kept. The air on entering and passing through the

several apartments seemed fresh and pure, and suited to the purposes of animal life, unlike the murky noisome atmosphere too often found in prisons and which is destructive to health and life. This was all soon explained by finding in each of the cells ample flues provided for carrying off rapidly the vitiated atmosphere. It is heated by stoves. There were four prisoners in confinement, two males and two females, of these three were foreign and one native born, one committed for petit larceny and three for drunkenness. The average number in confinement is six, full one-half of whom are committed in consequence of habits of inebriation. The weekly cost of support is \$2.27 each. None are confined in cells during the day, and no labor provided for them. At night each one is locked separately in a cell, unless the jail is crowded and then the number confined in a single cell varies with the circumstances of the case.

TOMPKINS COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Ithaca, and is well kept. The building is warmed by stoves, and the cells, which are five feet wide and eight feet deep, are high, clean and well ventilated. There is no basement. The average number in confinement is fourteen, the present number eight. No employment provided for them, yet two of the prisoners were, at the time of visiting the jail, setting type. Of those confined three were foreign born and five native, two committed for murder, three for drunkenness, two petit larceny and one for debt. Nine-tenths at least of the commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation. None are confined in the cells during the day. At night each one is locked in a separate cell, except when the jail is crowded, as sometimes happens, in which case two or more are locked up together.

This jail has been used to confine *lunatics*, none confined at present.

ULSTER COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Kingston, and is one of the best in the State. It contains twenty good rooms or cells, twelve by fourteen feet, furnished with iron bedsteads and is kept clean and sweet, notwithstanding no special provision is made for ventilation. The prisoners can be classified according to law. Nine prisoners were found in confinement, four foreign and five native born, and were confined on the following charges, viz: one burglary,

one perjury, one abuse of his wife, one petit larceny, one assault and battery, one vagrancy, one disorderly conduct, one drunkenness, one grand larceny. A portion of the prisoners are employed in the manufacture of harness. The weekly cost of their support is \$2.50.

The average number in confinement is twenty-one, one-half of whom are committed consequent upon habits of inebriation. Prisoners are not confined in cells during the day, but are locked up separately at night. The jail is considered healthy. Is supplied with Bibles, and religious services are held every Sabbath, conducted by a clergyman.

WARREN COUNTY JAIL.

This jail occupies the *basement* of the building, and consists of three cells, and obviously falls far short, in extent of its accommodations, of the requirements of law. These cells, though in the basement and without ventilation, were considered by the keeper a healthy place to live in. Two persons were found in confinement, which is the average number, and both for petit larceny, and both native born. One-half of all the commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation. Prisoners spend their time in idleness, and are supported at a weekly cost of \$2.50 each.

For want of more extended accommodations the prisoners are kept constantly in their cells, two and sometimes four in a single cell.

WASHINGTON COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at Salem, and constitutes a part of the building used for a court house, and which is said to have been erected about sixty years. Its construction does not admit of the classification of prisoners as the law requires. Is not ventilated, and though warmed by stoves, in the severe part of winter it is represented by the keeper as being quite uncomfortable. Four prisoners were found in confinement. The average number is seven. There is no employment provided for them. Of those in confinement, two were foreign born, one native and one negro. One was committed for rape, and three for assault and battery. The weekly cost of their support is \$2.50 each; they are all confined in cells constantly, as there are no other jail accommodations. From one to six are placed in a single cell; three-fourths

of the commitments are consequent upon habits of inebriation. *All prisoners sentenced for two months and over, are sent to the Albany penitentiary. Two have been sent since the first of January last.*

WAYNE COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Lyons, and was found clean and in good order. *It is warmed by furnaces, and ventilated by flues in the walls.*

Eleven persons were found confined, seven foreign, and four native born, and committed on charge of assault and battery six, highway robbery two, burglary and larceny two, fraud one; nine-elevenths of these commitments were consequent upon habits of intoxication; these prisoners mingle promiscuously in the halls during the day, but at night are each locked in a separate cell. They have no employment, and are supported at a weekly cost of \$2.00 each.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located at White Plains. The jail proper consists of eight cells, six by ten feet, seven and a half feet in height, in the basement of the building under the court house—has no means of ventilation, and though heated with furnaces, cannot be made comfortable in cold weather; nor can the prisoners be classified according to the requirements of law.

Seventeen prisoners were found in confinement, two-thirds of whom are foreign born and one-third native, unemployed, and committed, one for murder, four grand larceny, four petit larceny and eight for misdemeanors, and supported at a weekly cost of \$2.75 each. Of those in confinement about one-third are consequent upon habits of inebriation. The average number in confinement is fifteen, and the proportion of the whole number committed consequent upon habits of intoxication, is more than one-third.

The prisoners are constantly confined in the cells, sometimes three in a cell, and sometimes more. Five women have been confined in a cell six by ten feet, seven and a half feet ceiling, and without the slightest ventilation.

This county has a new jail in course of construction, designed to be brought into use next spring.

WYOMING COUNTY JAIL.

The jail in this county is located in the village of Warsaw, and is so commodious and well arranged as to enable the keeper to classify the prisoners according to law. It contains eight cells, four with iron slat doors and four others of wood, perforated by a six inch square hole. The jail is not ventilated. The average number confined is four ; at the present time there are but two in confinement, both of whom are native born. The prisoners have no employment and are supported at a weekly expense to the county of three dollars each. Those now in prison are committed for larceny, and of the whole number committed eight-tenths are so consequent upon habits of inebriation. At night each prisoner is locked in a separate cell, during the day two or more are permitted together. The jail is considered healthy and is supplied with Bibles.

YATES COUNTY JAIL.

This jail is located in the village of Penn Yan, is constructed of stone, forty by fifty feet, and is considered by the sheriff an unhealthy building for the confinement of prisoners. The construction of the jail is such also, that he cannot comply with the requirements of the law in the classification of prisoners. It is warmed by stoves and is without ventilation. There were six prisoners in confinement, one for arson, one for receiving and secreting stolen property, three for assault and battery and one for petit larceny. They were all native born. The average number in confinement is four. No employment is provided for them. The weekly cost for their support is three dollars per week each. They enjoy the range of the halls during the day, and are locked up at night, one or two in a cell according to the necessities of the case. Of those in confinement all were consequent upon habits of inebriation.

XII. PENITENTIARIES.

ALBANY PENITENTIARY, ALBANY.

This institution was opened in 1846. The building furnishes cells for two hundred males and one hundred females. The average number of inmates is two hundred; the present number is two hundred and fifty, seventy females and one hundred and eighty males. Three-fourths of these are of foreign birth. The convicts work at different trades under contract, and the average earning per day of each is thirty cents.

The great class of commitments is for misdemeanors incident to and caused by intemperate habits. In eight hundred and one commitments for the year 1855, seven hundred and seventy-one admitted themselves to be intemperate. The same proportion will hold good for the present year. During the day the convicts are in the work shops and at night confined in separate cells. The prison is a very healthy one, there being but one death during the past year and that from delirium tremens. The patient came to the prison intoxicated. There was but one in hospital, and the average number so confined was *one half of one per cent.* There is chapel service every Sunday morning and religious conversation by the chaplain with the prisoners the residue of the day. A library is being established by private donations of individuals through the agency of the keeper, and already numbers some five hundred volumes. The hospital and chapel are not sufficiently ventilated; otherwise the institution appears well constructed, and its arrangements quite faultless.

The income of the prison for the year 1855 was \$18,174.25, and the expenses \$15,587.72, leaving a profit for the year of \$2,586, there is no indebtedness of any kind; and this is believed to be the best additional comment the committee can make upon its management.

The keeper is the son of the former superintendent Amos Pilsbury, who after bringing the penitentiary to its present perfect condition, has taken charge of a more extensive establishment at Wards Island at the solicitation of the Commissioners of Emigration, who are now profiting by his superior qualifications, and where the State and all interested in that important commission are receiving the benefit of his skill and experience.

XIII. WORK HOUSES.

ERIE COUNTY WORK HOUSE, BUFFALO.

This penitentiary is located in the city of Buffalo. The institution was established and buildings erected some years since. These latter are of stone and though at present not sufficiently large and commodious for the number of inmates; still are well designed and constructed. The grounds attached comprise five acres; four acres being inclosed by a high stone wall and wooden fence. The cells are constructed in ranges or galleries rising one above the other, and are kept cleanly and in good order. Their size is about four by seven feet. In each cell is provided an iron cot, two feet in width; and in twenty-two of the cells are placed two of these cots. The whole number of cells is seventy. Owing to the present large number of convicts two are placed in each cell, and in those containing two cots *three* are confined. Accommodations for lodging are thus, of course, entirely insufficient. An appropriation of \$8,000.00 was made last year by the county for building a separate structure for the sole accommodation and confinement of the female convicts. This is now in process of construction, and will on its completion in a great measure relieve the crowded state of the present buildings.

The average number of prisoners in confinement is one hundred and thirty; the present number one hundred and seventy-seven, of these seventy-one are females. Four-fifths of all in confinement are of foreign birth. The convicts are furnished with plain substantial food, at an average weekly expense of sixty-five cents. They are employed mostly on contract in the manufacture of "harness findings," at *per diem* wages for males, of twenty cents; females fifteen cents. The supervisors of the county impose rules for the government of the penitentiary and visit it in a body once each year. They employ a physician to attend the sick, who visits the house twice each week and oftener if called; he is paid per visit. Only two deaths have occurred

during the past year. The hospital wards are entirely inadequate for the proper accommodation of the sick. In one room of the size fifteen by twenty feet, with low ceiling and no means of ventilation, twenty-eight persons are placed. The air, as a legitimate and necessary consequence, is foul and impure. The prison is supplied with Bibles and the convicts are assembled for chapel exercises each Sabbath. There are employed five keepers, beside the superintendent and deputy and a guard of two persons.

Nine-tenths of the commitments are directly consequent on habits of intemperance, and one-third are commitments of old offenders. The general discipline of the prison, and the cleanliness and good order of the wards may well be commended.

MONROE COUNTY WORKHOUSE.

This is an institution located at Rochester, partaking in its main features much of the character of a penitentiary. The courts of Monroe county, and of several others adjoining, are by special statute permitted to send here those committed for petty offences, or less than felonies, where they are sentenced to hard labor instead of lying idle in the various county jails. Here they nearly by their labor pay the cost of their support, where they were before a complete charge upon the county in which they chanced to be imprisoned. Here too they are instructed in some useful trade, while before they only learned vicious habits.

The building is a new one, constructed of brick, four stories in height, attached is one workshop of two stories and another of one. A roomy yard is enclosed by a high and secure wall. Connected with the house is a farm of sixteen acres. In the main structure are ninety-six cells for males and forty for females, beside two hospitals, male and female. There are also two workshops, two for the use of male convicts and one for females. The rooms are mainly warmed by furnaces. The house is tolerably ventilated by flues in the walls. There are now 144 prisoners in the house. This is also about the average number in confinement. Of the whole number 102 are males and forty-two females. Seven-eighths are foreign born. Two prisoners are under sixteen years of age, these are kept separate and apart from others. The convicts are provided with plain substantial food of meat, bread and vegetables, which is furnished by the superintendent of the workhouse at a county charge. The convicts are all compelled to labor during the whole time of their

sentence. Their labor is farmed out to contractors at the rate of twenty-five cents per day for males, and sixteen cents for females. The males are employed in shoemaking and coopering and the females in bottoming chairs. Each, on his or her entrance, is placed at a trade and works at it during the term of sentence.

A chapel is furnished in the building where religious services are held on each Sabbath. Corporal punishment is not administered, convicts are punished by solitary confinement in a dark cell. There is a library of three hundred volumes. From one-third to one-half of the convicts are brought here by intemperance, and of the sick there are more cases of delirium tremens than all others combined. The officers employed are eight, superintendent and deputy, four overseers and two watchmen. A physician is employed by the year, who visits the house twice each week.

This institution appears to be judiciously managed, and to be successfully working out the end designed in its establishment. The whole expense the past year of the workhouse over its receipts, was but \$2,971.05, and it is believed its revenue will soon be equal to the whole expenses.

KINGS COUNTY PENITENTIARY.

The buildings now nearly completed for this penitentiary, are on a farm of thirty-eight acres, about two and a half miles from the city of Brooklyn. The main building is 490 feet long by 86 feet wide; with two wings of 50 feet each, and built of stone. The present number of inmates is one hundred and fifty-three; seventy-four of whom are males, and seventy-nine females. At present the men are employed grading the grounds and breaking stone, and the females as domestics. The weekly cost of the support of each convict is eighty and one-half cents. Three deaths have occurred during the past year. Seven-eighths of all commitments are consequent upon habits of intemperance. The cells are of good size and well arranged, and it is intended to place but one prisoner in each. The whole building is well ventilated and warmed by stoves. It is supposed that the labor of the convicts, when the buildings are completed, will be nearly equal to the expenses of the penitentiary. It is now under the care of the supervisors of the county.

SYRACUSE CITY POOR AND WORKHOUSE, SYRACUSE.

This is located about two miles from the city of Syracuse, westerly. It is designed mainly for the accommodation of the city poor. The building is new; built of brick; three stories in height besides basements, and 148 1-2 feet long by 66 feet in width. The basements are occupied for domestic purposes. In the building are forty-eight rooms or wards, for the occupation of inmates, besides those used as dining, washing and other similar apartments. The whole are warmed by stoves and a furnace and ventilated by flues opening into chimneys. There are two flues in each room eight by fourteen inches in size. .

There is a farm attached of forty-seven acres, the labor on which with the exception of one man, is performed by the paupers. The revenue of this farm is estimated at \$600.00. The keeper of the house is employed at a salary of \$800.00.

The inmates at this time number forty, though the average is about fifty. In the smaller rooms of the house two persons are placed in a room; in one of the larger ones, nine. A detailed register is kept. Of the inmates two-thirds are males, and eight are under sixteen years of age. About one half are foreign born. Six deaths have occurred during the past year. At night there is a complete separation of the sexes; during the day they mingle together.

For medical attendance a physician is appointed by the common council, at a salary of \$300. He visits the house as often as circumstances require. There is only one keeper in charge of the institution. Good facilities are afforded the inmates for bathing. The common council impose rules of government, and the superintendent regulates the system of diet. The average weekly cost of the support of paupers is about \$2. At sixteen years the children are placed out for employment in the families of neighboring farmers. No provision is made for the instruction of children, though there is a common school near the house, even this the children are not made to attend.

Three of the inmates are lunatics, all males, and all paupers. They have no special attendants aside from the superintendent, and none have been improved or cured since entering the house.

They are confined in cells which appear quite comfortable, and are at times chained. Four have been admitted within the year.

They receive no other medical care and attendance than the house physician affords. The construction of the house is not such as to allow classification of the insane. In the case of one pauper, a lunatic, and partly idiotic, it was considered necessary by the keeper, about a year since, to administer severe floggings; the offence was indecent exposure of his person. He stated, however, that flogging is no part of the discipline of the house. There are now in the house three idiots, all males. There are also three blind. One birth has occurred during the last year. In the estimate of the superintendent, all, except the insane, are brought to their present condition either directly or indirectly through intemperance, and as a consequence of inebriation.

The house, as a whole, appears well fitted in its construction for the designed purpose, and in its management able.

TABLE A,

Showing the number of inmates in each county poorhouse, the number of lunatics, the number confined or under restraint, the number of foreigners, children under 16 years of age, idiots, births and deaths the past year, extent of poorhouse farm, average number of paupers and weekly cost of the support of each, condition caused by intemperance, &c.

JAILS.	Inmates in Aug., 1856.	Native born.	Foreign orn.	Children under 16 years.	Average number of inmates.	Months school taught.	Births the past year.	Deaths the past year.	Extent in acres of poorhouse farm.	Annual income of farm.	Number of inmates in sleeping room.	House inspected by supervisors the past year.	Weekly cost of inmates' support.
Albany,	319	79	240	80	350	12	32	71	216	\$6,000	40	1	\$0 90
Allegany,	70	23	47	8	57	.....	5	8	180	1,000	4	1	1 03
Broome,	37	34	3	5	45	.....	1	1	130	800	6	1	1 08
Cattaraugus,	30	23	7	4	35	.....	3	2	200	1,000	7	0	1 40
Cayuga,	70	17	53	15	100	4	6	6	90	.....	10	1	1 70
Chautauque,	56	46	10	7	130	7	6	17	160	2,000	32	0	44
Chemung,	52	17	35	13	70	0	9	8	180	1,000	10	0	80
Chenango,	80	73	7	25	90	6	9	9	170	800	20	0	56
Clinton,	48	12	36	11	65	0	3	15	90	800	21	1	1 00
Columbia,	187	125	62	34	208	12	12	15	204	1,400	50	1	1 00
Cortland,	52	50	2	9	51	.....	3	7	118	600	6	1	65
Delaware,	58	49	19	11	65	.....	.....	7	175	250	12	1	1 00
Dutchess,	240	160	80	61	220	12	.....	49	107	1,631	40	1	1 95
Erie,	225	19	206	75	300	12	34	83	153	2,700	30	2	1 00
Essex,	65	45	20	10	67	8	3	6	100	1,200	12	0	62
Franklin,	38	10	28	9	48	3	1	2	110	1,500	8	1	31
Fulton,	30	25	5	4	50	.....	3	6	94	200	10	1	25
Genesee,	75	50	25	15	90	7	2	17	133	1,300	10	1	72
Greene,	88	48	40	19	130	10	4	13	130	800	20	1	75
Herkimer,	76	38	38	11	130	6	4	7	65	739	14	12	1 10
Hamilton, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jefferson,	125	62	63	15	150	12	10	13	107	1,500	10	6	75
Lewis,	50	12	38	12	93	4	1	9	59	600	12	2	97
Livingston,	75	37	38	25	107	10	4	17	108	2,000	6	1	74 ¹ / ₂
Madison,	108	27	71	30	130	12	1	5	135	1,500	35	1	56

Monroe,	280	40	240	75	360	12	23	46	134	3,500	100	1	68
Montgomery,	76	19	57	11	125	6	2	5	150	1,000	18	2	62
Niagara,	78	12	66	40	90	12	5	18	120	1,000	3	1	50
Oneida,	160	40	120	42	222	12	.....	.....	115	.....	40	1	1 10
Onondaga,	150	30	120	60	200	12	.....	8	34	.....	20	2	57
Ontario,	120	40	80	35	136	12	4	18	212	4,000	26	1	1 04
Orange,	138	69	69	40	200	12	6	12	265	2,000	10	1	1 15
Orleans,	40	24	16	8	59	.....	5	3	107	721	16	0	1 08
Oswego,	47	35	12	7	75	.....	3	5	80	300	8	1	58½
Osseo,	86	79	7	16	90	.....	1	15	153	1,400	12	1	43
Putnam,	37	34	3	13	52	12	.....	16	196	601	20	1	.....
Queens,	40	38	2	12	127	0	5	8	63	.....	20	0	.....
Rensselaer,	133	16	117	50	190	12	.....	7	152	2,000	25	12	1 00
Richmond,	55	14	41	14	80	8	3	8	100	3,000	18	1	1 00
Rockland,	70	14	56	30	100	12	.....	10	47	700	3	1	75
Saratoga,	102	63	34	25	137	12	10	36	112	900	46	1	73
Schenectady,	56	28	28	20	75	9	1	13	116	1,200	4	1	84
Schoharie,	35	33	2	7	60	0	0	7	60	800	6	1	75
Schuyler, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Seneca,	44	25	19	6	60	4	2	7	126	.....	10	1	1 00
Suffolk, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. Lawrence,	120	60	60	40	50	12	10	12	130	1,000	7	1	83
Steuben,	60	53	7	8	75	0	5	4	214	2,000	12	1	1 01
Sullivan,	35	16	19	12	55	3	1	4	100	400	15	1	75
Tioga,	61	46	15	13	75	0	6	4	62½	600	12	0	1 00
Tompkins,	37	33	4	9	53	0	2	15	100	1,500	10	1	57½
Ulster,	120	80	40	45	175	6	20	50	140	500	45	0	1 25
Warren,	34	17	17	8	54	.....	2	8	200	800	14	1	90
Washington,	112	56	56	40	124	11	5	10	170	1,500	10	1	67½
Wayne,	60	20	40	15	67	12	.....	11	190	1,400	16	1	1 55
Westchester,	191	79	112	75	225	12	20	16	173	2,500	30	1	68½
Wyoming,	65	50	15	11	73	2	.....	4	97	300	7	1	75
Yates,	60	45	15	12	86	8	1	4	123	1,000	18	2	1 40
4,956	2,219	2,670	1,307	6,420	Av'ge 6½	292	770	6,975	\$67,641	1,017	78	Av'g \$0 83	

* No county house.

TABLE A.—(CONTINUED.)

JAILS.	Intemperance the cause of pauper- ism. (Percent.)	Number of luna- tics.	Males.	Females.	Lunatics in cells.	Lunatics under mechanical re- straint.	Lunatics improv'd past year.	Lunatics recover'd	Lunatics not pau- pers.	Lunatics received past year.	Number of idiots in house.	Number of deaf and dumb in house.	Number of blind in house.
Albany.....	50	73	32	41	2	0	2	7	3	39	4	1	3
Allegany.....	67	4	2	2	1	.....	0	0	0	.....	7	0	0
Broome.....	34	21	8	13	1	0	0	0	0	.....	11	0	0
Cattaraugus, ..	50	3	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Cayuga.....	75	9	5	4	.....	.....	0	0	0	3	3	0	0
Chautauque, ..	67	12	6	6	4	.....	1	1	0	.....	10	0	1
Chemung.....	68	6	4	2	0	.....	0	0	0	2	3	0	0
Chenango.....	75	8	3	5	4	.....	1	0	0	3	7	0	0
Clinton.....	50	6	1	5	2	.....	0	0	0	2	10	0	0
Columbia.....	75	35	15	20	4	.....	0	0	2	8	5	0	1
Cortland, ..	68	10	5	5	3	.....	0	0	0	4	3	0	1
Delaware.....	25	13	3	10	2	.....	2	3	1	5	8	1	0
Dutchess.....	70	27	10	17	.....	6	3	0	0	20	5	.....	4
Erie.....	75	71	25	46	1	.....	6	5	4	40	11	0	3
Essex.....	86	12	6	6	0	.....	.....	3	0	3	3	0	2
Franklin.....	90	7	3	4	1	.....	0	0	0	2	4	0	2
Fulton.....	75	5	0	5	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	1
Genesee.....	33	20	7	13	1	1	5	2	5	5	10	0	1
Greene.....	75	11	6	5	.....	6	0	0	0	1	9	1	2
Herkimer.....	75	17	12	5	3	0	0	1	0	4	8	3	1
Hamilton.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jefferson.....	75	31	13	17	1	.....	.....	2	2	10	8	2	3
Lewis.....	50	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1
Livingston.....	75	14	5	9	1	.....	3	0	0	5	3	1	2
Madison.....	75	14	5	9	9	.....	0	0	1	3	7	0	0
Monroe.....	94	28	13	15	18	.....	6	0	0	42	8	2	5
Montgomery.....	75	13	9	4	7	.....	0	0	1	3	5	0	0
Niagara.....	34	19	6	13	0	0	2	5	3	30	4	0	2
Oneida.....	.....	31	11	20	.....	0	.....	.....	0	.....	3	0	4
Onondaga.....	75	16	8	8	4	1	2	0	0	.....	1	1	5

Ontario,	67	21	6	15	3	0	4	2	0	2	5	2	1
Orange,	67	16	8	8	2	.....	4	2	0	6	2	.....	3
Orleans,	80	7	2	5	0	.....	0	1	0	2	2	1	0
Oswego,	87	8	5	3	2	.....	1	2	0	3	4	0	0
Otsego,	90	15	5	10	0	0	4	0	0	3	5	0	0
Putnam,	72	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	.....	2	1	.....
Queens,†	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3
Rensselaer,	88	30	4	26	1	0	0	1	0	15	2	2	.....
Richmond,	86	5	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Rockland,	90	6	2	4	2	.....	0	0	3	1	8	1	3
Saratoga,	50	10	3	7	5	.....	0	0	0	.....	11	.....	.....
Schenectady,	90	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	.....	7	.....	.....
Schoharie,	68	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Schuyler,*	50	7	2	5	3	0	0	0	0	6	3	0	0
Seneca,	75	12	5	7	.....	.....	0	0	0	.....	1	1	1
Suffolk,*	90	35	15	20	4	0	0	2	0	4	1	0	0
St. Lawrence,	67	7	2	5	1	.....	0	0	0	0	4	.....	.....
Steuben,	75	6	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sullivan,	68	7	2	5	.....	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Tioga,	75	15	3	12	10	0	0	0	0	5	12	.....	.....
Tompkins,	70	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	2
Ulster,	50	20	10	10	.....	.....	0	1	0	2	3	2	5
Warren,	80	7	5	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	0	1
Washington,	75	25	11	14	0	0	10	5	2	.....	11	2	3
Wayne,	67	12	5	7	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Westchester,	67	5	2	3	1	.....	0	0	0	0	7	0	4
Wyoming,	67	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Yates, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Av. 69	837	329	508	113	17	59	46	27	301	273	25	71	71

† Only two towns.

* No county house.

TABLE B,

Showing the number in each county jail, native born, foreign born, weekly cost of support of each, average number in confinement, jails supplied and not supplied with bibles, jails in which prisoners can and in which they cannot be classified as required by law, committed in consequence of habits of intemperance, the number confined in all, &c.

JAILS.	Number in confinement.	Native born.	Foreign born.	Average weekly expense of support.	Committee's consequent on incarceration. (Per cent.)	Average number in confinement.	Supplied with bibles.	Number usually confined in single cell or ward.	Number confined constantly in cell	Can classify as law requires.
Albany,.....	45	13	32	\$1 25	.....	50	Yes,	2	0	No,
Allegany,.....	4	3	1	3 00	80	6	.....	2	0	.....
Broome,.....	2	0	2	2 50	90	10	Yes,	3	0	No,
Cattaraugus,.....	2	2	0	2 50	50	4	Yes,	1	0	Yes,
Cayuga,.....	18	5	13	2 50	80	11	.....	1	0	.....
Chautauque,.....	10	7	3	3 50	20	10	Yes,	1	0	No,
Chemung,.....	10	1	9	2 50	50	12	No,	1	0	No,
Chenango,.....	4	2	2	2 50	75	3	Yes,	1	0	No,
Clinton,.....	11	3	8	2 50	90	6	.....	1	0	No,
Columbia,.....	7	4	3	2 25	68	10	No,	2	0	No,
Cortland,.....	1	1	0	2 00	67	2	Yes,	.....	0	No,
Delaware,.....	1	0	1	2 50	50	2	.....	2	1	No,
Dutchess,.....	20	6	14	2 25	70	14	No,	3	2	No,
Erie,.....	30	6	24	2 00	68	20	No,	1	27	Yes,
Essex,.....	3	3	0	2 50	68	3	.....	3	3	No,

Franklin,	2	0	2	2 25	90	5	Yes,	0	No, Yes,
Fulton,	3	2	1	2 75	50	6	Yes, 1	1	Yes,
Genesee,	5	2	3	2 00	84	5	Yes, 1	0	No,
Greene,	15	14	1	2 50	68	10	Yes, 6	11	No,
Herkimer,	5	3	2	2 75	70	6	Yes, 4	1	No,
Hamilton,*									
Jefferson,	5	3	2	2 00	80	5	.....	2	Yes,
Kings,	100	25	75	2 10	75	80	Yes, 2	36	Yes,
Lewis,	3	3	0	2 15	20	3	No, 3	0	No,
Livingston,	2	1	1	2 75	90	6	Yes, 2	0	No,
Madison,	3	2	1	2 50	68	5	.....	0	No,
Monroe,	24	6	18	1 25	75	21	Yes,	0	Yes,
Montgomery,	5	5	0	2 75	80	10	Yes, 3	0	No,
New-York,	28	14	14	.....	.....	18	Yes, 17	0	No,
Niagara,	28	7	22	2 00	100	27	.....	29	Yes,
Oneida,	16	6	10	.....	75	.....	No, 1	0	No,
Onondaga,	23	6	17	.....	90	20	Yes, 1	23	Yes,
Ontario,	24	11	13	2 25	68	20	Yes, 1	0	No,
Orange,	11	2	9	.....	100	.....	No, 2	0	No,
Orleans,	5	1	4	2 50	80	8	Yes, 1	0	No,
Oswego,	25	5	20	2 25	75	25	No, 6	0	No,
Otsego,	6	6	0	3 00	34	8	No, 4	0	No,
Putnam, .....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	90	.....	.....	0	No,
Queens,	15	10	5	2 37 ¹ / ₂	75	25	Yes, 4	0	Yes,
Rensselaer,	24	6	18	2 25	60	25	Yes,	0	Yes,

[Senate No. 8.]

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TABLE B.—(CONTINUED.)

JAILS.	Number in confinement.	Native born.	Foreign born.	Average weekly expense of support.	Commitments consequent on incarceration. (Per cent.)	Average number in confinement.	Supplied with bibles.	Number usually confined in single cell or ward.	Number confined constantly in cell	Can classify as law requires.
Richmond,	5	0	5	\$3 00	90	12	No,	3	2	No,
Rockland,	7	5	2	2 25	30	6	Yes,	2	7	No,
Saratoga,	14	12	2	2 25	80	12	Yes,	6	11	Yes,
Schenectady,	0	0	0	2 25	68	3	No,	0	0	Yes,
Schoharie,	0	0	0	2 50	68	10	Yes,	5	0	No,
Schuyler,†	0	0	0							
Seneca,	4	2	2	2 37½	95	10	Yes,	2	1	No,
Steuben,	6	5	1	2 75	68	8	Yes,	2	0	No,
St. Lawrence,	14	1	13	3 00	90	12	.....	3	0	No,
Suffolk,	4	4	0	1 50	95	5	Yes,	3	0	Yes,
Sullivan,	3	3	0	2 50	68	3	No,	1	0	No,
Tioga,	4	1	3	2 75	50	6	Yes,	1	0	No,
Tompkins,	8	5	3	2 25	90	.....	.....	1	0	No,
Ulster,	9	5	4	2 50	50	21	Yes,	1	0	Yes,
Warren,	2	2	0	2 50	50	2	.....	2	0	No,
Washington,	4	1	3	2 50	75	10	.....	6	4	No,
Wayne,	11	4	7	2 00	90	14	Yes,	.....	0	No,

	17	5	12	2 75	40	15	Yes, Yes,	3	17	No, Yes, No, No, No,
Westchester,	17	5	12	2 75	40	15	Yes,	3	17	No,
Wyoming,	2	2	0	3 00	80	4	Yes,	2	0	Yes,
Yates,	6	6	0	3 00	100	4	.....	1	0	No,
Fulton Village, .....	.....	0	0	2 25	75	3	.....	2	0	No,
Newburgh,	12	6	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	.....	No,
	678	245	413	\$2 26		669	32		178	15

• Not occupied.

† Jail not completed.

TABLE C,

Showing the number of inmates in county and alms houses in the State, the native and foreign born, children under 16 years of age, births and deaths the past year, lunatics, idiots, inmates in workhouses, in penitentiaries, in jails and city prisons, in houses of refuge, and the whole number in jails and other places of confinement; also, the whole number of lunatics in county houses and asylums

	Number inmates in county alms-house.	Native born.	Foreign born.	Children under 16 years of age.	Births past year.	Deaths past year.	Lunatics.	Idiots.	Inmates in work-houses.	In penitentiaries.	In jails and city prisons.	In houses of re-fuge.	Total in jails, workhouses, penitentiaries and house of refuge.
In county poorhouses,	4,956	2,286	2,670	1,307	292	770	837	273	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New-York almshouse, (proper),	1,220	305	915	1,500	328	257	597	135	357	809	678	.....	.....
Kings county almshouse,	1,365	495	870	424	142	342	205	9	.....	153	333	.....	.....
Syracuse city almshouse and workhouses, ..	40	20	20	8	1	6	3	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Newburgh almshouse,	38	10	28	16	3	10	2	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bloomington asylum, N. Y., .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	142	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
State asylum, Utica, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	461	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ward's Island, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	74	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Marshall infirmary, Troy, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Seamen's Fund and Retreat, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oswego county jail, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
State asylum for idiots, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	104	144	.....	.....	.....	.....
Monroe county workhouse, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	177	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erie county workhouse, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Albany penitentiary, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	250	.....	.....	.....
New-York house of refuge, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	462	.....
Western house of refuge, Rochester, .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	320	.....
Totals,	7,619	3,116	4,503	3,255	766	1,385	2,332	528	858	1,212	1,011	782	3,863

NOTE.—These tables do not include the number of lunatics in private asylums, or those placed or kept in private families.

NOTE A.—(Page 3.)

It is well ascertained that the average amount exhaled from the lungs and skin of a healthy adult in twenty-four hours is 40 oz., and of this quantity about 10 dwt. consists of animal matter. With these data it is easy to calculate the amount of effete matter eliminated from the pulmonary and cutaneous surfaces of the number of inmates usually crowded together in one of the sleeping apartments in county poor houses; and supposing this to be but forty, and it is frequently above that number, it will be found that it amounts to 133 lbs in a single day; by these estimates a judgment may be formed of the degree of liability to disease, originating in crowded habitations; the effect of it upon the healthy and its *certain* effect upon the invalid.



NOTE B.—(Page 3.)

There is no classification in our poor houses.

“The poor of all classes and colors, all ages and habits, partake of a common fare, a common table, and a common dormitory. The poor widow who has occupied a respectable position in society, and who has been accustomed to the decencies and amenities of polished, intelligent and christian society, but in consequence of pecuniary misfortune in her declining years, is compelled to resort to the poor house, finds herself seated at the table with a negro wench on one side of her and a filthy prostitute on the other. She sleeps in the same room with the degraded and the outcast, and is compelled the whole day to associate on equal terms, and to listen to the obscene and disgusting language of creatures who are utterly revolting to her feelings. Such a woman undergoes a daily martyrdom. To call such relief a public *charity*, is a misnomer and a satire.” (Senate documents 1855, No. 72.)

NOTE C.—(Page 5.)

"In the year 1831, the total number of persons relieved and supported at the public cost in the State of New York, was 15,564; in the year 1841, the number was 61,233; in 1851, the number was 125,473; and, in 1852, it amounted to 151,399.

The numerical increase of paupers during the ten years between 1831 and 1841, was 45,639; or in other words, pauperism had increased 293 per cent., or in still other words, there were nearly four paupers in 1841, where there was only one in 1831. The numerical increase of paupers from 1841 to 1851, was 64,270, or 105 per cent. There was two paupers in 1851 where there was only one in 1841. If we compare the number of persons relieved and supported in 1851, directly with those relieved and supported in 1831, we shall see that during that period of twenty years, the numerical increase was 109,909. The increase per cent was 706; or, rather, more than eight paupers in 1851 for one in 1831." (Senate documents 1855, No. 72.)

NOTE D.—(Page 7.)

"In many cases the teacher is a pauper, whose temper is soured and whose intellect is debased, and who spends the school hours in tormenting, rather than teaching his pupils." (Senate documents 1855, No. 72.)

NOTE E.—(Page 8.)

"I have found many children bound out by the superintendents who never received one hour's education during their apprenticeship, and who, at the age of twenty-one, were cast loose on the world no better than the heathen. How can children, brought up in this way, be expected to become anything else than criminals or paupers, and fathers and mothers of criminals and paupers? They have no ambition to acquire property, and if they had, they have no means to acquire it. They cannot enter into trade, because in order to do this with any success they must be able to read, write and cypher, and this they cannot do.

Efficient rules should be adopted to guard against abuses in the apprenticeship of pauper children. Full enquiries should be made as to the character of the proposed master, and the answer should be made a matter of record. The parents or

friends of the apprentice should be cited to attend, and their objections, if any, should be recorded and carefully weighed. The master should not be allowed to remove the apprentice from the town where he was originally bound without the consent in writing of the superintendents. The indentures should fully declare the duties of the master and provide for a proper amount of schooling and the provision of the necessary school books." (Senate documents, 1855, No. 72.)

NOTE F.—(Page 19.)

"The custody of the prisoners in the county jail should be taken from the sheriff and transferred, together with the appointment of the jailor and the police of the jail, to the county superintendents of the poor." (Senate documents, 1855, No. 72.)

NOTE G.—(Page 19.)

"We shall understand by the word *county prison*, a building in which are kept persons of every age and of each sex and color, of every rank, fortune, education and character, some of whom are charged with no offence but are held to secure their appearance as witnesses, others of whom are charged with offences of various grades, but some of these are innocent and will so appear on trial, some are guilty and will be punished ; others of whom are already convicted of trivial offences and are subjected to only a few weeks or months of detention. In this diversity of classes some will be found whose habits are orderly and industrious, others who are idle and vagrant ; some whose education has been moral and whose tastes are refined, others who are rude, coarse, filthy and ignorant ; some whose language and deportment are chaste and decorous, others whose utterance and gesture are profane and obscene ; some whose commitment, although legal and upon a true charge, implies only a momentary excess of anger or perhaps a too zealous defence of a friend, others who are old residents of prisons, and have led only a criminal life ; some who are young and have been unexpectedly pressed by a temptation against which their very arrest may be a sufficient security for the future, others who are practiced corruptors of youth and seek every advantage of the inexperienced ; some who are willing to be taught the mysteries of robber-craft, others who

are expert and anxious to communicate the vicious devices of of roguery." (Remarks on Penal System of Pennsylvania by William Parker Foulke.)

NOTE H.—(Page 23.)

"Whereas it has long been the policy of this government to combine the separation of convicts one from another with instruction and suitable manual labor as the best means of discipline and reformation: and whereas, it is necessary to the equality of penal justice, that the administration of the county prisons shall be uniform, as has been heretofore declared; therefore be it enacted, &c., That every county prison which shall be hereafter erected within this commonwealth, shall be so constructed that every person committed thereto, whether upon conviction or otherwise, may be confined separate and apart from every other person committed thereto, due regard being had in the plan of construction to the health of the persons to be so confined; and that before any county prison shall be erected in this commonwealth, the plan of construction of such prison, drawn sufficiently in detail for the clear comprehension thereof, shall be submitted by the commissioners of the county in which the same is to be built to the secretary of the commonwealth, and shall be inspected and approved by him and so certified by him upon the plan, a copy of which shall be furnished by the commissioners aforesaid at the time of their submitting the original as aforesaid, and shall be signed by the said secretary and be filed and remain in his office." (Act of April 8, 1851, Pamphlet laws of Pennsylvania, p. 353.)

NOTE I.—(Page 23.)

"We have seen that the most of the evils complained of have arisen either from a want of the proper powers conferred on poor law officers, from mal-administration of those powers, from ignorance of the true principles on which their powers should be exercised, and which ignorance arises, not from negligence on their part, but from neglect of the State to investigate and ascertain the facts necessary to be known, from the want of an intelligent central supervision, from the want of a uniform and reliable system of accounts, by frequent changes of officers, by which the whole body of poor law officers are continually learning their business, and as soon as it is learned, they are discharged and

others taken as apprentices. What we want then is, to frame a body of poor law, which shall obviate these and all other difficulties, and introduce such other positive improvements as shall provide for the *comfortable* maintenance of the virtuous and unfortunate poor—for the employment of the idle, and lazy, and shiftless poor—for the rapid and efficient cure of the sick and disabled poor—for the education and industrious training of poor children, and for aiding and encouraging industry among the poor who are not as yet the subjects of public charity. In other words, we wish the government to imitate the dealings of Divine Providence, and act as its agent in relation to the poor of the land. To accomplish this purpose a uniform, coherent and intelligible system must be devised. It must be a whole—complete in all its parts—each member working in entire harmony with all the others, to produce a definite and foreseen result. No patching of our present poor laws will answer this purpose. We must begin at the beginning, and with a comprehensive and intelligent grasp of all the details of the question, enact a complete code which shall accomplish the desired result.” (Senate document No 72, 1855.)

EXTRACT

From Revised Statutes, part 4, chap. 3, title 1, Article 1, 4th edition.

SEC. 2. Each county prison shall contain,

1. A sufficient number of rooms for the confinement of persons committed on criminal process and detained for trial, separately and distinct from prisoners under sentence.

2. A sufficient number of rooms for the confinement of prisoners under sentence.

3. A sufficient number of rooms for the separate confinement of persons committed on civil process, for contempt, or as witnesses.

SEC. 4. Prisoners committed on criminal process, and detained for trial, and persons committed for contempt, or upon civil process, shall be kept in rooms separate and distinct from those in which persons convicted and under sentence shall be confined; and on no pretence whatever shall prisoners detained for trial, or persons committed for contempt, or upon civil process, be kept or put in the same room with convicts under sentence.

SEC. 5. Male and female prisoners (except husband and wife,) shall not be kept or put in the same room.

SEC. 13. It shall be the duty of the keeper of each county prison to provide a Bible for each room in the prison, to be kept therein, and he shall if practicable cause divine service to be performed for the benefit of the prisoners at least once each Sunday, provided there shall be a room in the prison that can be safely used for that purpose.

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